

Sen. Bernie Sanders says he's running for president in 2020

By JUANA SUMMERS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders said Tuesday that he will seek the Democratic presidential nomination again, a decision that will test whether he can still generate the progressive energy that fueled his insurgent 2016 campaign.

"Our campaign is not only about defeating Donald Trump," the 77-year-old self-described democratic socialist said in an email to supporters. "Our campaign is about transforming our country and creating a government based on the principles of economic, social, racial and environmental justice."

An enthusiastic progressive who embraces proposals

such as "Medicare-for-all" and free college tuition, Sanders stunned the Democratic establishment in 2016 with his spirited challenge to Hillary Clinton. While she ultimately became the party's nominee, his campaign helped lay the groundwork for the leftward lurch that has dominated Democratic politics in the Trump era.

The question now for Sanders is whether he can stand out in a crowded field of Democratic presidential candidates who also embrace many of his policy ideas and who are newer to the national political stage. That's far different from 2016, when he was Clinton's lone progressive adversary.



In this Nov. 27, 2018, file photo, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks about his new book, 'Where We Go From Here: Two Years in the Resistance', at a George Washington University/Politics and Prose event in Washington.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 3

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APNewsBreak: Feds share watchlist with 1,400 private groups

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT**
Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) —

The federal government has acknowledged that it shares its terrorist watchlist with more than 1,400 private entities, including hospitals and universities, prompting concerns from civil libertarians that those mistakenly placed on the list could face a wide variety of hassles in their daily lives.

The government's admission that it shares the list so broadly comes after years of insistence that the list is

generally not shared with the private sector.

Gadeir Abbas, a lawyer with the Council on American-Islamic Relations, which has filed a constitutional challenge to the government's use of the watchlist, called the government's admission shocking.

"We've always suspected there was private-sector dissemination of the terror watchlist, but we had no idea the breadth of the dissemination would be so large," Abbas said.

The watchlist is supposed to

include only those who are known or suspected terrorists but contains hundreds of thousands of names. The government's no-fly list is culled from a small subset of the watchlist.

The government's admission comes in a class-action lawsuit filed in federal court in Alexandria by Muslims who say they regularly experience difficulties in travel, financial transactions and interactions with law enforcement because they have been wrongly added to the list. The Associated Press is the first to report on the disclosure after reviewing the case documents.

Abbas said now that the government has disclosed how many private entities receive access to the Terrorist Screening Database, the official name of the watchlist, it now needs to explain exactly which private entities are receiving it and what they're doing with it. He's asked a judge to require the government to be more specific. A hearing is scheduled for Friday.

"Are universities taking TSDB status into account in making admission or disciplinary decisions? Are Inova Alexandria Hospital's building security personnel screening visitors against the TSDB and denying entry to listees? Is Motorola screening its software engineers who work on cellular infrastructure equipment against the TSDB and firing listees? Plaintiffs have no idea," Abbas and co-counsels Lena Masri and Carolyn Homer wrote in a brief submitted Friday. In depositions and



In this Jan. 30, 2017, file photo, attorney Gadeir Abbas speaks during a news conference at the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in Washington.

Associated Press

in court hearings, government officials had denied until very recently that the watchlist compiled by the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center is shared with private entities. At a pre-trial hearing in September, government lawyer Dena Roth told U.S. District Judge Anthony Trenga that the Terrorist Screening Center "does not work with private partners, and that watchlist status itself ... is considered law enforcement sensitive information and is not shared with the public."

In response to Trenga's order, TSC Deputy Director of Operations Timothy Groh filed a written statement earlier this month acknowledging that 1,441 private entities have received permission to access the watchlist. Groh says those private entities must be in some way connected to the criminal justice system. He cited police forces at private universities, hospital security staff and private correctional facilities as examples.

It is not clear what restrictions are placed on how private institutions use the list. The FBI did not respond to emails and phone calls seeking comment.

Hugh Handeyside, attorney with the ACLU's National Security project, said the government's disclosure is "noteworthy in that it corroborates what we've long suspected, but it still leaves unanswered several important questions." He said more information is needed to know how private entities use the information.

"The likelihood of stigma or adverse consequences is increased" every time the government shares the list with a private organization, a foreign government or any other agency, he said. The exact number on the list is kept secret by the government, but it acknowledged in an earlier lawsuit that it adds hundreds of thousands of names to the list every year. It also emphasized that names are routinely removed from the list. □

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Sen. Bernie Sanders says he's running for president in 2020

Continued from Front

Still, there is no question that Sanders will be a formidable contender for the Democratic nomination. He won more than 13 million votes in 2016 and dozens of primaries and caucuses. He opens his campaign with a nationwide organization and a proven small-dollar fundraising effort.

"We're gonna win," Sanders told CBS.

He said he was going to launch "what I think is unprecedented in modern American history": a grassroots movement "to lay the groundwork for transforming the economic and political life of this country."

Sanders described his new White House bid as a "continuation of what we did in 2016," noting that policies he advocated for then are now embraced by the Democratic Party.

Trump told reporters that Sanders ran a great campaign in 2016 but that he believes the senator "missed his time."

"I like Bernie," Trump said, noting Sanders' criticism of free trade. "The problem is he doesn't know what to do about it. We're doing something very spectacular on trade."

Sanders goes into the campaign with several advantages, including the name recognition he earned from his last run. In a sign of the enthusiasm surrounding his campaign, Sanders raised \$3.3 million on Tuesday from 120,000 individual donors, according to a person familiar with the campaign who wasn't authorized to publicly disclose the early numbers and spoke on condition of anonymity.

That's more than double the \$1.5 million haul Sen. Kamala Harris raised in the first 24 hours of her campaign. The California Democrat was the biggest fundraiser in the race so far.

Sanders could also be well-positioned to compete in the nation's first primary in neighboring New Hampshire, which he won by 22 points in 2016. But he won't

have the state to himself.

Harris was in New Hampshire on Monday and said she'd compete for the state. She also appeared to take a dig at Sanders.

"The people of New Hampshire will tell me what's required to compete in New Hampshire," she told shoppers at a bookstore in Concord. "But I will tell you I'm not a democratic socialist." Sen. Elizabeth Warren of nearby Massachusetts will be in New Hampshire on Friday. Shortly after announcing her exploratory committee, Warren hired Brendan Summers, who managed Sanders' 2016 Iowa campaign. Other staffers from Sanders' first bid also have said they would consider working for other candidates in 2020.

The crowded field includes other candidates who will likely make strong appeals to the Democratic base including Harris and Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York. The field could grow, with a number of high-profile Democrats still considering presidential bids, including former Vice President Joe Biden and former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke.

While Sanders had been working to lay the groundwork for a second campaign for months, it was unclear whether he will be able to expand his appeal beyond his largely white base of supporters. In 2016, Sanders notably struggled to garner support from black voters, an issue that could become particularly pervasive during a primary race with several nonwhite candidates.

Last month, he joined Booker at an event in Columbia, South Carolina, marking Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In 2016, Sanders lost the South Carolina primary, which features a heavily black electorate, by 47 points.

Sanders also faces different pressures in the #MeToo era. Some of his male staffers and supporters in 2016 were described as "Bernie bros" for their treatment of



In this Jan. 30, 2019, file photo, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

women.

In the run-up to Sanders' 2020 announcement, persistent allegations emerged of sexual harassment of women by male staffers during his 2016 campaign.

Politico and The New York Times reported several allegations of unwanted sexual advances and pay inequity. In an interview with CNN after the initial allegations surfaced, Sanders apolo-

gized but also noted he was "a little busy running around the country trying to make the case."

As additional allegations emerged, he offered a more unequivocal apology.

"What they experienced was absolutely unacceptable and certainly not what a progressive campaign — or any campaign — should be about," Sanders said Jan. 10 on Capitol Hill. "Every woman in this country who goes to work today or tomorrow has the right to make sure that she is working in an environment which is free of harassment, which is safe and is comfortable, and I will do my best to make that happen." □

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Flynn pushed to share nuclear tech with Saudis, report says

By CHAD DAY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senior White House officials pushed a project to share nuclear power technology with Saudi Arabia despite the objections of ethics and national security officials, according to a new congressional report citing whistleblowers within the Trump administration. Lawmakers from both parties have expressed concerns that Saudi Arabia could develop nuclear weapons if the U.S. technology were transferred without proper safeguards. The Democratic-led House oversight committee opened an investigation Tuesday into the claims by several unnamed whistle-



In this Feb. 1, 2017 file photo, National Security Adviser Michael Flynn speaks during the daily news briefing at the White House, in Washington.

Associated Press

blowers who said they witnessed "abnormal acts" in the White House regarding the proposal to build dozens of nuclear reactors across the Middle Eastern

kingdom. The report raises concerns about whether some in a White House marked by "chaos, dysfunction and backbiting" sought to cir-

cumvent national security procedures to push a Saudi deal that could financially benefit close supporters of the president.

The report comes at a time when lawmakers are increasingly uneasy with the close relationship between the Trump administration and Saudi Arabia, which has raised alarms even among members of the president's party in Congress. Trump has made the kingdom a centerpiece of his foreign policy in the Middle East as he tries to further isolate Iran. In the process, he has brushed off criticism over the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi and the Saudis' role in the war in Yemen.

At the same time, Trump son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner is developing a Middle East peace plan that could include economic proposals for Saudi Arabia.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

According to the report, the nuclear effort was pushed by former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, who was fired in early 2017.

Derek Harvey, a National Security Council official brought in by Flynn, continued work on the proposal, which has remained under consideration by the Trump administration.

Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, announced the investigation Tuesday.

Relying on the whistleblower accounts, email communications and other documents, the committee's report details how NSC and ethics officials re-

peatedly warned that the actions of Flynn and a senior aide could run afoul of federal conflicts of interest law and statutes governing the transfer of nuclear technology to foreign powers.

Flynn is awaiting sentencing for lying to the FBI in the Russia investigation.

On Tuesday, a person close to Flynn's legal team said that Russia special counsel Robert Mueller's team has reviewed the matters raised in the congressional report and no charges related to it have been filed. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the ongoing investigation.

Congressional investigators are also probing the role of Tom Barrack, a proponent of the nuclear proposal who ran Trump's presidential inaugural committee, which is under separate investigation by federal prosecutors in New York. Rick Gates, a former Barrack employee and cooperator in Mueller's investigation, was also involved in advocating for the nuclear proposal.

A spokesman for Barrack said in a statement that he will cooperate with the House probe.

"Mr. Barrack's engagement in investment and business development throughout the Middle East for the purpose of better aligned Middle East and U.S. objectives are well known, as are his more than four decades of respected relationships throughout the region," the statement said, noting that Barrack never joined the Trump administration.

Harvey did not immediately return a request for comment. □





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Judge OKs suit aimed at halting Obama library in Chicago

By MICHAEL TARM

AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal judge gave the green light Tuesday to a parks-advocacy group's lawsuit that aims to stop for good the delayed construction of former President Barack Obama's \$500 million presidential center in a Chicago park beside Lake Michigan. Supporters of the project had hoped the court would grant a city motion to throw out the lawsuit by Protect Our Parks, some fearing any drawn out litigation might lead Obama to decide to build the Obama Presidential Center somewhere other than his hometown.

A lawsuit brought by another group in 2016 helped to scuttle a \$400 million plan by "Star Wars" creator George Lucas to build a museum on public land on Chicago's lakefront. That museum is now under construction in Los Angeles. Judge John Robert Blakey heard arguments last week on the city's motion to dismiss. Blakey did toss parts of the suit in his Tuesday ruling, but concluded the group has standing to sue because it represents taxpayers with concerns that providing parkland in the public trust to the Obama center violates their due-process rights.

Blakey's ruling doesn't mean the group will necessarily prevail in the end, but confirms that the suit poses a formidable threat to the project. The judge

indicated that he doesn't want the litigation to drag out, and that he would strictly limit any fact gathering leading up to trial to 45 days.

"We are pleased that the court dismissed some of the claims and made clear that the proceedings will move forward expeditiously," said Chicago corporation counsel Ed Siskel. It was also the view of the Obama Foundation in its one-sentence reaction to Blakey's ruling.

Blakey tossed the plaintiffs' claim that their First Amendment rights would be violated if tax money is used to construct a building to promote former President Barack Obama's political interests.

He also found no merit in the plaintiffs' claim they would suffer because of aesthetic and environmental harm to Jackson Park. Blakey says his ruling "does not address the true facts of this case."

Plans call for the center to be built in Jackson Park, which was named after President Andrew Jackson and was a site for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. The site 7 miles (11 kilometers) south of downtown Chicago is near low-income neighborhoods where Obama worked as a community organizer and is just blocks from the University of Chicago where Obama was a law professor. It is also close to the home where the Obamas lived until he won the presi-

dency in 2008.

The center was originally slated to open in 2021, though ground hasn't yet broken because of the lingering litigation.

In its 2018 suit, Protect Our Parks accused the city of illegally transferring park land to a private entity, The Obama Foundation, effectively "gifting" prized land to a Chicago favorite son. The group said city officials manipulated the approval process and tinkered with legislation to skirt long-standing laws designed to ensure residents have unobstructed access to lake-side parks.

"Defendants have chosen to deal with it in a classic Chicago political way ... to deceive and seemingly legitimize an illegal land grab," the lawsuit says.

To make the park available for the project, the Chicago Park District first sold the land to the city for \$1. Illinois legislators amended the state's Illinois Aquarium and Museum Act to include presidential libraries as an exception to the no-development rules if there's a compelling public interest. The Chicago City Council approved the project by a 47-to-1 vote last May.

The Obama Foundation, a private nonprofit, would pay \$10 to the city for use of the park land for 99 years, cover the costs of building the complex and be responsible for covering operating costs for 99 years. Once built, the Obama Presidential Cen-



This illustration released on May 3, 2017 by the Obama Foundation shows plans for the proposed Obama Presidential Center with a museum, rear, in Jackson Park on Chicago's South Side.

Associated Press

ter's physical structures would be transferred to the city for free, meaning the city would formally own the center but not control what happens there.

"They are essentially giving (property) to Obama ... for 10 cents a year for 99 years," parks advocacy lawyer Mark Roth said Thursday.

In a friend-of-the-court brief, legal scholar Richard Epstein said public-trust doctrine places an extra burden on authorities to prove overwhelming public benefit when they offer the use of public parks to such well-connected figures as Obama, who remains hugely popular in the heavily Democratic city. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel once served as Obama's White House chief of staff. One claim Blakey tossed Tuesday was that taxpayers' First Amendment rights would be infringed upon because tax money would

be spent to reconfigure roads and traffic. The suit argued that taxpayers would thus subsidize any partisan political activity by Obama at the center.

City lawyers conceded Thursday that Chicago would pay an estimated \$175 million to reconfigure roads to manage traffic around the center.

The lawsuit also claims that the center would interfere with migrating butterflies and birds.

City lawyers said Protect Our Parks misread the law, misrepresented how the approval process played out and exaggerated potential environmental disruptions.

The center would comprise 20 acres (8 hectares) of the 500-acre (202-hectare) park. Its centerpiece would be a 225-foot (69-meter) museum tower, surrounded by a cluster of smaller buildings, including a 300-seat auditorium. □

Judge orders Roger Stone to court over Instagram post

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday ordered Roger Stone to appear in court to consider whether to revoke his bail after the longtime Donald Trump confidant posted a photo on Instagram of the judge with what appeared to be crosshairs of a gun. U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson said Stone must show for a hearing Thursday afternoon and prove why she shouldn't modify or revoke his bail or implement a full gag order in his case. On Monday, Stone posted a photo of Jackson with what appeared to be cross-

hairs near her head. Later in the day, Stone and his attorneys filed a notice with the court that they recognized the "photograph and comment today was improper and should not have been posted."

Stone said that the photo was "misinterpreted" and that it was "a random photo taken from the Internet." He dismissed any suggestion that he was trying to threaten the judge as "categorically false."

The charges stem from conversations he had during the 2016 election about WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy group that released material stolen from Democratic groups, including Hillary Clinton's campaign. □

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FAA probes Southwest calculations of baggage weight on jets

By The Associated Press

Federal officials have told Southwest Airlines to fix the way it calculates the weight of luggage loaded on flights after finding frequent mistakes during a yearlong investigation. Southwest said Tuesday that it has made improvements in its methods for calculating the weight and balance of loads, and that it isn't facing enforcement action.

The airline said that it voluntarily reported the issue to the Federal Aviation Administration last year.

The FAA investigation was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

The newspaper said internal FAA documents showed that the airline made frequent mistakes in calculations and luggage-loading practices that could cause errors when pilots compute their plane's takeoff weight.

Southwest told The Associated Press that ground workers manually count and record how many bags go on each plane. The airline uses FAA-approved av-



In this Feb. 5, 2019, file photo Southwest Airlines planes are loaded at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in Seattle.

Associated Press

erage weights for bags and passengers, then adds the actual weight of fuel and freight to calculate each load. Southwest said it also builds in a safety margin.

The FAA found cases in which the bag load was more than 1,000 pounds heavier than paperwork indicated, the Journal reported.

Safety experts say pilots might respond incorrectly to an engine emergency if they had inaccurate information about the distribution of weight between

front and rear cargo bays.

"It can be extremely critical," Doug Moss, a retired United Airlines pilot, told the AP. "If the weight and balance is not calculated correctly, you could have a flight-control issue."

Moss said pilots calculate the thrust and wing-flap settings for takeoff based on weight and other factors, and faulty data could lead pilots to put the thrust settings too low. That could be critical if an engine fails while the plane is still climbing, he said.

An FAA spokesman told the AP that the agency opened an investigation in February 2018. Since then, he said, the FAA directed the airline to develop a comprehensive fix to the methods and processes it uses to determine baggage weight.

Southwest, based in Dallas, asked the agency to close the investigation. The FAA said the agency won't do so until regulators are satisfied that Southwest's corrections are being applied consistently.

Southwest sought to downplay the investigation, saying that a so-called open letter of investigation is a common way for the FAA to discuss safety issues with an airline.

Since the investigation started, the airline's publicity department said in a

statement, "Southwest has implemented controls and enhanced procedures to address our weight and balance program concerns, and we've shared those measures with the FAA."

Those changes include face-to-face verification of loading information between employees, controls on revising calculations before takeoff, new software and more training.

Southwest said it will begin scanning bags on the tarmac this year to improve accuracy. Other large U.S. airlines already use this technology. Southwest's contract with bag handlers did not include a provision for using scanners until 2016. The airline then spent time evaluating technology and testing scanners at a few airports. □

Alabama woman who joined Islamic State seeks return to U.S.

By JAY REEVES

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) —

An Alabama woman who left home to join the Islamic State group after becoming radicalized online realized she was wrong and now wants to return to the United States, a lawyer for her family said Tuesday.

Hoda Muthana, 24, regrets ever aligning herself with the terrorist organization and is putting herself at risk by speaking out against it from a refugee camp where she has lived since fleeing the group a few weeks ago, said attorney Hassan Shibly.

Muthana, who dodged sniper fire and roadside bombs to escape, is ready to pay the penalty for her actions but wants freedom and safety for the 18-month-old son she had with one of two IS fighters she wed, he said. Both men were killed in combat.

In a handwritten letter released by Shibly, Muthana wrote that she made "a big mistake" by rejecting



This undated image provided by attorney Hassan Shibly shows Hoda Muthana, an Alabama woman who left home to join the Islamic State after becoming radicalized online.

Associated Press

her family and friends in the United States to join the Islamic State.

After fleeing her home in suburban Birmingham in late 2014 and resurfacing in Syria, Muthana used social media to advocate violence against the United States. In the letter, Muthana wrote that she didn't understand the importance of freedoms provided by the United States at the time. □

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Newspaper calls for KKK resurgence, schools rescind honors

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)

— A small-town newspaper has called for a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, prompting two universities to withdraw the awards it had given its editor.

Auburn University and the University of Southern Mississippi decided Tuesday to rescind previous honors for Goodloe Sutton, editor and publisher of The Democrat-Reporter of Linden, Alabama.

An editorial published last week began: "Time for the Ku Klux Klan to night ride again." The editorial says Democrats and "Democrats in the Republican Party" are plotting to raise taxes in Alabama, so the Klan should raid "gated communities" where they live.

Sutton told the Montgom-

ery Advertiser he stands by his Feb. 14 editorial. During an interview, Sutton suggested lynchings as a way to clean up Washington. Sutton also questioned whether the KKK is violent, claiming America's most feared white supremacist terrorist organization "didn't kill but a few people."

The Alabama Press Association Board said in a brief statement that its board of directors voted Tuesday to censure Sutton and suspend The Democrat-Reporter's membership.

Dating to 1879, the newspaper's editorials are consistently conservative and often critical of the Democratic Party. The use of "Democrat" in its name reflects back to the period when nearly all white con-

servatives in the South were Democrats.

The KKK editorial was only the latest in a series of provocative opinions expressed by The Democrat-Reporter, which was lauded two decades ago for coverage rooting out corruption in the local sheriff's department.

In a December editorial about the high cost of crime, the newspaper said: "Giving addicts enough free dope to kill themselves is cheaper than putting them in prison for killing other people to get a few bucks to buy more dope."

Weeks earlier, the newspaper complained that CBS News historically has "slandered the South" by providing too much coverage when whites kill blacks in the region. □

NY court: Public allowed to see police body camera footage

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Police body camera footage is subject to public disclosure under New York law, a state appeals court ruled Tuesday.

The Appellate Division panel rejected a police union's argument that body camera footage constitutes a personnel record and is therefore covered by a state law keeping police personnel records secret. Body camera video "is more akin to arrest or stop reports, and not records primarily generated for disciplinary and promotional purposes," the court said. "To hold otherwise would defeat the purpose of the body-worn-camera program to promote increased transparency and public accountability."



In this Jan. 30, 2018 file photo, a newly issued police body camera is shown during a NYPD news conference in New York.

Associated Press

The New York Police Department and police reform advocates welcomed the decision. The city's largest police union, which sued to block the disclosure of footage, said the court's decision was "wrong" and that it was considering an appeal. □

Key witness says Colorado man fatally beat fiancée with bat

DENVER (AP) — A man beat

his fiancée to death with a baseball bat, convinced a woman he was having an affair with to clean up a bloody crime scene and then burned the victim's remains while she watched, investigators said Tuesday.

Dramatic testimony at a Colorado hearing relied heavily on what Krystal Jean Lee Kenney, a 32-year-old Idaho woman told police: That she and Patrick Frazee were having a romantic relationship and that he wanted her to kill the mother of his infant daughter. Kenney has



In this Dec. 31, 2018 file photo, Patrick Frazee leaves the Teller County District Court in Cripple Creek, Colo.

Associated Press

pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence and is required to testify against Frazee as part of her plea agreement with prosecu-

tors. The body of Kelsey Berreth, a 29-year-old flight instructor and the mother of Frazee's infant daughter, has yet to be found. □

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7 Syrian refugee children die in Canadian house fire

Associated Press

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP)

— Seven children, all members of a Syrian refugee family, died early Tuesday in a fast-moving house fire described as Nova Scotia's deadliest blaze in recent memory.

The father, Ebraheim Barho, was reported fighting for his life after apparently trying in vain to save his children, who ranged in age from about 3 months to the mid-teens. The mother, Kawthar Barho, also was hospitalized with injuries but was expected to survive.

In an interview from the hospital, Imam Wael Haridy of the Nova Scotia Islamic Community Centre said the Barhos had fled Syria's civil war.

"We're here in hospital with a desperate mother who lost seven of her kids," Haridy said, adding: "She's saying to us, 'Am I going to get my children back?' ... It's so hard. It's so sad."

He said officials were conducting DNA tests to confirm the identities of the dead children before they can proceed with a traditional Islamic burial process.



Police and firefighters investigate following a house fire in the Spryfield community in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

The family was among 1,795 Syrian refugees who have come to Nova Scotia in recent years.

News of the deadly fire was a blow for the Canadians who sponsored them.

"Everyone is devastated, and our loss pales in comparison to the parents," said Natalie Horne, vice president of the Hants East Assisting Refugees Team.

Horne said the family arrived on Sept. 29, 2017. She identified the children as Ahmad, 14; Rola, 12; Mohammad, 9; Ola, 8; Hala, 3; Rana, 2; and Abdullah, born in November.

She said the family came from Raqqa, Syria, and lived in Elmsdale, Nova Scotia, for over a year before moving to Halifax to be closer to refugee sup-

port services, such as English-language training.

But she said the family missed the support of the community in Elmsdale and had been planning to move back in a few more days. Police said the cause of the fire remained under investigation.

Halifax Fire Deputy Chief Dave Meldrum said it was the deadliest fire anyone

could remember in the East Coast province.

"Words fail when children are taken from us too soon, especially in circumstances like this," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a tweet. Danielle Burt, who lives next door to the family, said she heard a loud bang and a woman screaming just after 12:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Burt fled the house with her four children and saw the parents outside in a harrowing scene.

"The mother was on the grass, praying I guess, bowing, her hands down, and pulling on my husband's arm to call 911," said Burt, her voice breaking. "She said the kids were inside, and the dad was sitting on the steps. I think he had gone back in because he was really burnt. It was just awful."

Rich Farrell, who lives down the street, said he and other neighbors ran to the house to try to help but the flames spread too quickly.

"It's so frightening, but in the space of 30 seconds it went from what looked like a little bit of flame to the whole thing just becoming engulfed," Farrell said. □

Thousands rally in France to oppose recent anti-Semitic acts

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Rallies against anti-Semitism attracted crowds of thousands in Paris and other French cities Tuesday following a series of aggressive acts with Jewish targets, including a cemetery where about 80 gravestones were spray-painted with swastikas overnight.

In the French capital, former presidents Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy joined a rally led by Prime Minister Edouard Philippe on Republic Plaza.

Political parties from across the spectrum participated in the nationwide rallies with the theme "That's enough", although Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally party held a separate event.

French President Emmanu-



A man wearing a yellow vest holds a placard reading "I am Jew", during a gathering at the Republique square to protest against anti-Semitism, in Paris, France, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

Associated Press

el Macron went to the Shoah Memorial, a Holocaust museum in Paris, to observe a moment of silence with parliament leaders.

"Every time a French person, because he or she is Jewish, is insulted, threatened — or worse, injured or killed — the whole Repub-

lic" is attacked, Macron said at a news conference in Paris.

Hours before the rallies started, Macron visited the vandalized Jewish cemetery in Quatzenheim, a small town in the northeastern Alsace region. He said he felt shame at the sight of

the defaced grave markers.

"This looks like absurd stupidity," the French leader said, looking visibly sad and concerned.

Macron observed several moments of silence in front of the vandalized graves while local Jewish community representatives stood by. "We will take action," he promised.

France is home to the world's largest Jewish population outside Israel and the United States. Among the incidents arousing worries of renewed anti-Semitism was a torrent of hate speech directed at Jewish philosopher Alain Finkielkraut during a Saturday march by yellow vest protesters.

In recent incidents, swastika graffiti was found on street portraits of Simone Veil — a survivor of Nazi

death camps and a European Parliament president who died in 2017. The word "Juden" was painted on the window of a bagel restaurant in Paris, and two trees planted at a memorial honoring a young Jewish man tortured to death in 2006 were vandalized, one cut down.

Two youths were arrested Friday after they allegedly fired shots at a synagogue with an air rifle in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles, where a large Jewish community lives. Sarcelles mayor Patrick Haddad told BFMTV on Tuesday that prosecutors believe the motive was anti-Semitism.

According to sociologist Danny Trom, author of "France Without Jews," thousands of Jewish people leave France every year because of anti-Semitism. □



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Avalanche hits skiers at Swiss resort; 4 rescued so far

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — An afternoon avalanche swept up skiers as it rumbled across a slope at a popular Swiss Alps ski resort, sparking a hurried search that rescued four people and extended into the night for others who might still be buried, authorities said.

Nearly 250 rescue workers, medical team members, police officers and military personnel backed by eight helicopters and a dozen search dogs were deployed after the avalanche on Plaine Morte, a mountain in the town of Crans-Montana, officials said.

One person was in critical condition after being extracted from the chunky snow that had spilled over the Kandahar ski slope, Commander Christian Va-



Rescue crew work on the avalanche site, at the ski resort of Crans-Montana, Switzerland, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

Associated Press

rone of the Valais regional police said at a news briefing. Three others were "superficially" injured, Varone said.

Roughly half of the 840-meter-long (920-yard) avalanche made a direct hit across the ski slope, he said. "Witnesses told us other people could be buried

under the layer of snow. For that reason, we are continuing our search with considerable means," Varone said.

He did not elaborate or take questions from reporters.

"What's important for the intervention teams is that we do everything we can

to verify whether or not people remain buried under the avalanche. That's our main priority," he said. "The second is to take care of the families of the injured the best that we can."

Valais police spokesman Steve Leger explained later by phone that police were not providing estimates of how many people might be trapped under the snow.

Earlier, local newspaper Le Nouvelliste reported that Crans-Montana Mayor Nicolas Feraud had said between 10 and 12 people were buried in the avalanche. But in a subsequent email to The Associated Press, Feraud said the situation was evolving.

Resort operator CMA said an alarm sounded shortly before 2:30 p.m., minutes after the avalanche hit.

Valais prosecutor Cathe-

rine Seppey said authorities were investigating what triggered the avalanche, citing weather conditions or skier behavior as possibilities.

Switzerland's Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research had put the risk of an avalanche in the area at level 2, which is relatively low on its 5-point scale.

Michele Vizzino, who manages the La Violette restaurant near the gondola that runs up to the peak, said he heard the avalanche but didn't see it. Video from the site showed skiers on the slopes above a trail of lumpy snow after the avalanche.

The avalanche comes ahead of a weekend women's World Cup event involving top skiers such as Switzerland's Lara Gut on the Mont Lachaux run at Crans-Montana. □

EU official criticizes Hungary PM Orban for campaign posters

By RAF CASERT
PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — A top European Union official criticized Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Tuesday for election campaign posters alleging that EU headquarters has purposely weakened the bloc's external borders to let in more migrants.

Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans said when it comes to spinning the truth in political campaigning "this is something in a completely different universe."

The Hungarian government



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, left, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attend a press conference after their meeting in Jerusalem, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

Associated Press

says its new campaign — European Parliament election — is meant to inform

citizens about "Brussels plans to encourage immigration."

"Everyone has the right to know which are the current proposals fundamentally threatening Hungary's safety," the government said.

In Hungary, posters have gone up focusing on EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and Hungarian-American financier George Soros.

According to the poster, EU leaders, who Orban says are carrying out instructions from Soros, "are launching experimental immigration projects with African coun-

tries; want to introduce mandatory settlement quotas; want to reduce financial assistance for countries opposed to migration."

A post on the Hungarian government's Facebook page showed a similar poster but with other claims — "They want to introduce mandatory settlement quotas; they want to weaken the border protection rights of the member states; they would facilitate immigration with migrant visas."

Timmermans said the EU and Juncker were actually at the forefront of reinforcing the EU's external borders. □

Pressure builds to get civilians out of last IS-held enclave

By SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

AL-OMAR OIL FIELD BASE, Syria (AP) —

Dozens of trucks arrived Tuesday at the outskirts of a besieged enclave held by the Islamic State group in eastern Syria, signaling renewed efforts to evacuate hundreds of civilians trapped in the militants' last patch of territory along the Euphrates River. A spokesman for the U.S.-backed Syrian militia that is spearheading the fight against IS said a military operation aimed at ousting the extremists from the enclave will begin if they don't surrender.

Such an operation would take place after separating or evacuating civilians from the militants, estimated to be about 300 combatants, said Mustafa Bali, the spokesman for the Syrian Democratic Forces.

Just before sundown Tuesday, more than 40 trucks headed toward Baghouz, the last village where IS militants are trapped with hundreds of civilians. There was no sign of the civilians returning by dark, and on the other edge of the IS-controlled territory, more than one airstrike hit, apparently



Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighter stands atop a building used as a temporary base near the last land still held by Islamic State militants in Baghouz, Syria, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

increasing the pressure on those holding out. Gunfire echoed over the hills in the distance as soldiers from the SDF waited for the expected evacuation.

"We are working on either separating the civilians or evacuating them and raiding the place," Bali told The Associated Press. The Islamic State group has been reduced from its self-proclaimed caliphate

that once spread across much of Syria and Iraq at its height in 2014 to a speck of land on the countries' shared border. In that tiny pocket on the banks of the river, the militants are hiding among civilians in the shadow of a small hill, encircled by forces waiting to declare the territorial defeat of the extremist group. Bali's comments signaled an easing of a standoff that

has lasted for more than a week. Nearly 20,000 civilians had left the shrinking area in recent weeks before the evacuation halted last week when the militants closed all the roads out of the tiny area.

AP journalists saw dozens of trucks moving to the tip of a humanitarian corridor used in past weeks. That corridor had been deserted for the last week after thousands

fled through it. About 40 civilians, including a French woman, left the enclave Tuesday morning, apparently after paying smugglers, said a member of the Free Burma Rangers, a volunteer medical group.

Adnan Afrin, a commander with the SDF, said a number of civilians and some fighters have turned themselves in, and that the trucks went to the corridor to get them. He said those who surrendered included Europeans and Americans. He reported some clashes on the other side of the enclave between SDF fighters and IS militants who want to continue the battle. An SDF commander, Zana Amedi, said his group gave a final warning to the remaining militants to surrender. In a Twitter post, he said most of them are seriously wounded or sick. A U.N. official said she is concerned about the condition of the some 200 families trapped in the enclave. In a statement issued in Geneva, U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said the extremists are actively preventing civilians, including women and children, from leaving the area. □

Suicide bombing kills 3 policemen near Cairo's famed bazaar

By SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The death toll from a late-night suicide blast near Cairo's famed tourist market rose to three on Tuesday after a police officer died of his wounds, Egypt's Interior Ministry said. The fatalities in the attack near the Khan el-Khalili bazaar in the heart of Cairo were all policemen. The explosion late Monday also wounded two other policemen and a woman, officials said.

The attack was a rarity for the central area of Egypt's capital amid a years-long security crackdown under President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi.

The Interior Ministry said the attacker, 37-year-old al-Hassan Abdullah, blew himself up after police offi-



Policemen and residents surround the site of an explosion in the Gamaliya district, near Cairo's famed Khan el-Khalili tourist marketplace in Cairo, Egypt, late Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

cers approached to arrest him. He was wanted in a bombing last Friday near a mosque in Cairo's district of Giza and the police had been monitoring his movements, the statement said. The attacker's affiliation

was not known and no militant group claimed responsibility for the bombings. The ministry had blamed members of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood for last week's attack, which it said targeted a security

checkpoint and wounded three people. Following Monday's explosion, which shattered windows and blew curtains off nearby balconies, police and soldiers cordoned off the narrow streets around the bazaar. A body, presumably of the attacker, covered with a white sheet stained with blood, was seen lying on the ground in the blocked-off area, close to Egypt's renowned Al-Azhar mosque. In a house nearby, police found a bomb and bomb-making material, which prompted the evacuation of the whole building, said the security officials.

In the restive north of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, security forces killed 16 militants and seized explosives and weapons in two raids,

security officials said Tuesday. The raids involved clashes with Islamic militants in the desert outside the city of el-Arish, they said. It was unclear when the battle took place.

Officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Egypt has been battling Islamic militants for years, but the insurgency gained strength after the 2013 overthrow of an elected but divisive Islamist president, Mohammed Morsi. The militants have mainly targeted security forces and Christians. Egypt last year launched a wide-scale security operation focused on northern Sinai, where an Islamic State affiliate has carried out many attacks in recent years. □



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China, Iran meet amid efforts to preserve nuclear deal

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The Iranian foreign minister's passionate defense of his country's interests at the Munich Security Conference has made him "a famous person" in China, his Chinese counterpart told him Tuesday, as the sides met amid efforts to preserve the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is leading an Iranian delegation to Beijing that includes parliamentary speaker Ali Larijani and the ministers of finance and petroleum, as well as the CEO of the country's central bank.

Germany, Britain, France, China, Russia and the European Union have been trying to preserve the 2015 deal meant to keep Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons in exchange for sanctions relief after the unilateral withdrawal of the United States last year.



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, left, and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi shake hands during their meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

Associated Press

"Yesterday evening I saw on TV how you defended the rights of Iran loud and clear at the Munich Security Conference," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Zarif. "I think an audience of hundreds of millions of Chinese also watched what you said and you are a famous person now."

A perception held by many Chinese that the U.S. seeks to contain their nation's global rise generates sympathy among the public for Iran and other countries, such as Venezuela, identified by Washington as hostile powers.

Zarif told the Munich conference on Sunday that a

barter-type system known as INSTEX set up last month by France, Germany and Britain to allow businesses to skirt direct financial transactions with Iran, and thereby evade possible U.S. sanctions, fell short of commitments to save the nuclear deal. He addressed the conference a day after U.S. Vice President Mike Pence prodded Germany, France and Britain to follow Washington in withdrawing from the deal and to "stop undermining U.S. sanctions." Wang made no direct comments on China's position on the deal in opening remarks before reporters on Tuesday, but said he was "really delighted" to meet with Zarif "given the major changes in the Middle East and the international landscape."

"I would like to take this opportunity to have this in-depth strategic communication with my old friend to deepen the strategic trust

between our two countries and to ensure fresh progress of the bilateral comprehensive and strategic partnership," Wang said.

Zarif responded by saying Iran's relationship with China "is very valuable to us."

"We consider the comprehensive strategic partnership between Iran and China as one of our most important relations," he said. Prior to parliamentary speaker Larijani's departure from Tehran, China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted him as saying that Iran and China have "close and amicable" relations in diverse areas, and that both sides have enjoyed the support of each other in the international arena.

Asked about China's position on the Iran deal and Washington's re-imposition of sanctions, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China had made clear its disapproval. □

4 Indian soldiers killed in fighting with Kashmir rebels

Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Four army soldiers were killed Monday in a gunbattle with militants fighting against Indian rule in disputed Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

Another soldier and a civilian were wounded in the gunbattle, which came after a local Kashmiri militant rammed an explosive-laden van into a paramilitary convoy bus on Thursday, killing at least 40 soldiers in the worst attack against Indian government forces in Kashmir's history.

The fighting erupted early Monday after government forces surrounded a village in the southern Pulwama area on a tip that militants



Members of various Indian Hindu organizations light candles as they pay tribute to the Indian soldiers killed in Thursday's attack on a paramilitary convoy in Kashmir, in Jammu, India, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

were hiding there, security officials said. As troops began conducting searches they came under heavy

gunfire, leading to fatalities, police said.

The dead included an Indian army major. Both the

injured civilian and the soldier were reported to be in critical condition.

Police said the exchange of gunfire had stopped, but that troops were still conducting searches in the area.

Tensions have escalated in the already restive region since Thursday's attack, which India blamed on Pakistan, promising a "jaw breaking response." Pakistan warned India not to link it to the attack without an investigation, saying that it was part of New Delhi's "known rhetoric and tactics" to divert global attention from human rights violations in Kashmir.

Archrivals India and Pakistan each administer part

of Kashmir, but both claim the region in its entirety. Rebels have been fighting Indian control since 1989. Most Kashmiris support the rebels' demand that the territory be united either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country, while also participating in civilian street protests against Indian control.

The anti-India unrest grew especially after a popular rebel leader was killed in 2016. The Indian government responded with stepped-up anti-rebel operations, leading to more protests.

About 70,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the ensuing Indian crackdown since 1989. □

Brazil's #metoo moment: Spiritual guru accused of sex abuse

By **DIARLEI RODRIGUES**
MARIO LOBAO
PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press

ABADIANIA, Brazil (AP) —

For over 40 years, spiritual healer Joao Teixeira de Faria drew people from all over the world to this small city in central Brazil, offering treatment for everything from depression to cancer. His work was both praised — Oprah Winfrey called de Faria “inspiring” while visiting in 2012 — and heavily scrutinized. Now, de Faria, who goes by the name “Joao de Deus,” or “John of God,” is in trouble with the law.

Since December, more than 250 women including his daughter have come forward to allege abuse that ranged from being felt up during treatments to rape. The mounting accusations are turning the 77-year-old spiritual guru into Brazil's first major figure to go down in the #metoo era, which has been slow to take off in Latin America's largest nation despite myriad problems with gender equality.

Meanwhile, the people in Abadiania, about a two-hour drive west from the nation's capital of Brasilia, are in disbelief. They also fear for their futures without de Faria.

“All of Abadiania depended on the work of Joao,” said Claudio Pruja, the owner of a small inn who also sometimes worked as an assistant to de Faria. “We don't have a beach. This isn't Copacabana.”

Indeed, de Faria's pull was so strong that the much more affluent “new” part of the town, built in the years since the healer opened his clinic in 1976, stands in sharp contrast to the older, run down part of town: There are brightly colored houses, swept streets, hotels with ATM machines inside — a rarity in small Brazilian cities — as well as specialty boutiques that cater to tourists and police constantly patrolling.

By some estimates, his “casa spiritual,” or “spiritual house,” attended to 10,000

patients a week. It was there that de Faria, who over the decades came

from gium, Bolivia, the United States and Holland.

De Faria's victims were of

into question the veracity of their abuse claims.

They argue their client, who

During a first consultation, she said he placed her hands on his penis, and in a second encounter penetrated her from behind. After remaining silent for four years, she detailed her accusations in a Facebook post last year and told her story on the show. Contacted since then, Mous has declined to be interviewed. Two other alleged victims reached by the AP have also declined to give interviews.

In Abadiania, where many express surprise at the allegations against de Faria, the married guru was seen around town as a lady's man. Norberto Kist, another inn owner who often assisted de Faria, said the man he considered a “father” was attractive to women.

“He had an energy,” said Kist, waving his hands for emphasis. “And that generated fascination in women.” “A lot of things that happened, and others that are being presented in a ridiculous way (in the press), happened because of that strength, that energy, that magnetism, which is fascinating,” Kist said.

Inside de Faria's spiritual hospital is a picture of Jesus Christ next to one of de Faria. Signs in English and Portuguese give instructions like, “Crystal bed in session. Silence please.” Inside the center, both workers and tourists dress in all white.

By all accounts, the number of visitors is way down, but the flow hasn't stopped entirely.

“The energy is more pure. It's as strong as ever, if not stronger,” said Tammy Pennington, an American from California recently in Abadiania for spa treatments. Of the more than 250 cases, at least 112 have passed the statute of limitations, said Miranda, the public prosecutor. In such cases, it's normally 20 years, but de Faria's advanced age reduces the statute of limitations to 10 years.

No trial date has been set, but regardless of what happens, it's unlikely de Faria will ever be able to practice again. □



In this Jan. 4, 2019 photo, a woman places her hands in prayer on a wooden triangle, between framed images of spiritual healer Joao Teixeira de Faria and Jesus Christ, inside the Casa de Dom Inacio, in Abadiania, Brazil.

Associated Press

under sharp scrutiny from critics who deemed him a charlatan, performed “psychic” surgeries that he said could heal a wide range of maladies.

Sometimes treatments were based on prayer, and sometimes they involved minor cutting into the body. In 2012, Winfrey visited de Faria's center and interviewed him for her talk show, writing about the experience of seeing him cut into the breast of a woman without anesthesia.

“An overwhelming sense of peace” is how she described the experience in a column that has since been deleted on oprah.com.

Winfrey has issued a statement saying she sympathizes with the alleged victims and hopes they get justice. According to more than 250 women, it was during the healing sessions that de Faria molested them or began grooming them for what would lead to forced sexual contact outside the clinic.

Luciano Miranda, a public prosecutor, told The Associated Press that his office had received testimony from women from six countries: Brazil, Germany, Bel-

gium, Bolivia, the United States and Holland.

“The biggest fear of victims was not being believed,” Miranda added. He said some of the women said they held off talking publicly about it for years because of worry they “could lose their husbands.”

The scandal erupted when several women talked about their experiences on the show “Conversa com Bial” in December, leading to an avalanche of similar accusations in the weeks that followed.

The U.S. Embassy in Brazil published an alert asking Americans to contact Brazilian authorities if they had been abused by de Faria.

De Faria's adult daughter, Dalva Teixeira, told Brazilian magazine *Veja* that her father frequently raped her between the ages of 10 and 14, all on the pretense of spiritual treatments.

“My father is a monster,” she told the magazine.

De Faria's lawyers have noted that many of the allegations are decades old, and in some cases involved women who repeatedly visited the healer — putting

has been arrested, should be released before a trial. They have called on Brazilians to know all the facts before judging.

“Lynchings are always potentially unjust and lead a society to find scapegoats in individuals,” lawyers Alberto Zacharias Toron and Luisa Moraes Abreu Ferreira wrote in a December op-ed in daily *Folha de S. Paulo*.

The accusations against de Faria come as cases of alleged abuse have emerged in several Latin American countries. In Argentina, a well-known actor, a senator and a legislative chief of staff have been accused of sexual harassment to assault. In Costa Rica, a criminal complaint alleging sexual assault was filed against former president and Nobel peace laureate Oscar Arias, leading other women to come forward with accusations.

Of the women who made the initial accusations on “Conversa com Bial,” only one agreed to be identified. Zahira Lieneke Mous, a Danish choreographer, recounted how she visited de Faria to deal with sexual abuse in her past.

LOCAL



Aruba Living Today: 10 Years a Real Realtor



ORANJESTAD — Aruba Living Today is a real estate company that will exist 10 years this June 1st. Owner Randolph Arends: "We started with the focus to be more warm-hearted towards clients and listen most carefully to their wishes instead of pushing our wishes through. We brought another color into the palette of the established real estate. That is why I call myself a Real Estate Mediator." What they offer is captured in the word 'custom made' meaning that every client is unique and together they step into the one-stop-shop world of Aruba Living Today.

Randolph explains that their services go a long way. "We see to it that all the people that are looking into buying or renting a house on Aruba will be supported not only in the process of sales, but also with the notary, insurances, mortgage and so on.

That has been a successful formula so far and I believe in it." His philosophy is to make a connection for the long-term. "I can proudly say that we have many clients that became friends, it is very special and that is exactly what we are about. A family feeling."

The Process

Before you buy you do your research, what is the purpose of your purchase? You need to know where you are going to buy and what are the rules and regulations in that place, Randolph continues. "That is where we come in. We guide you through this process and after determining what real estate you are looking for we explain you the different parts of the island followed by the information of the process, the rules and regulations and what exactly you may encounter on your path. All those details we choose to discuss upfront, the prescreening is essential to get to know the exact direction of the client and to have the client well-informed to be able to make the best decision." Aruba Living Today caters the local and tourist market, for buying and renting. Next to Randolph stands a whole team: Vicky Wesseling, (sales representative), Ashanti (administrative and financial) Berend (mortgages, taxations and projects,) and Julie (vacation rental). Together they are the team you encounter when working with them. "Important to mention is that we only work with reliable partners", Randolph adds.

Services of Aruba Living Today go beyond as their strength is that they offer all from A to Z. Vicky: "Buying a house is a life-time decision, it is a huge thing and an emotional process too. It is important you realize that when you work in this business. It is your task to give your client peace in mind, not just to sell for a commission. That will never work."

Tuscany Residences

One of the projects that Aruba Living Today is selling is Tuscany Residences. The residence's first phase (total project contains +/- 180 units) offers eight luxurious Townhouses in beautiful Dutch design up to 2.098ft Property land and a total 1.582ft living space. They are fully equipped with high quality standards, like a European kitchen and Banjolux bathrooms. 36 Condos located in three buildings are a wonderful vacation escape or a great investment, it is up to you. What about eight amazing 2-Layer & 3-Layer Villas with up to 50m2 pool, stunning Dutch architecture and allure? Check it out on their website and call Vicky or Randolph for tour! □



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Sarah Hickman - Harms to referee two hockey games in Shenzhen, China

By Clyde Harms
ORANJESTAD — Sarah Hickman - Harms whose picture appears on the cover of the current Ice Hockey Official Rules and Casebook and whose career as a hockey

player and referee I described in an article that appeared in Aruba Today last year, has been selected as one of the referees to lead three games of the 2018 - 2019 Canadian Women's

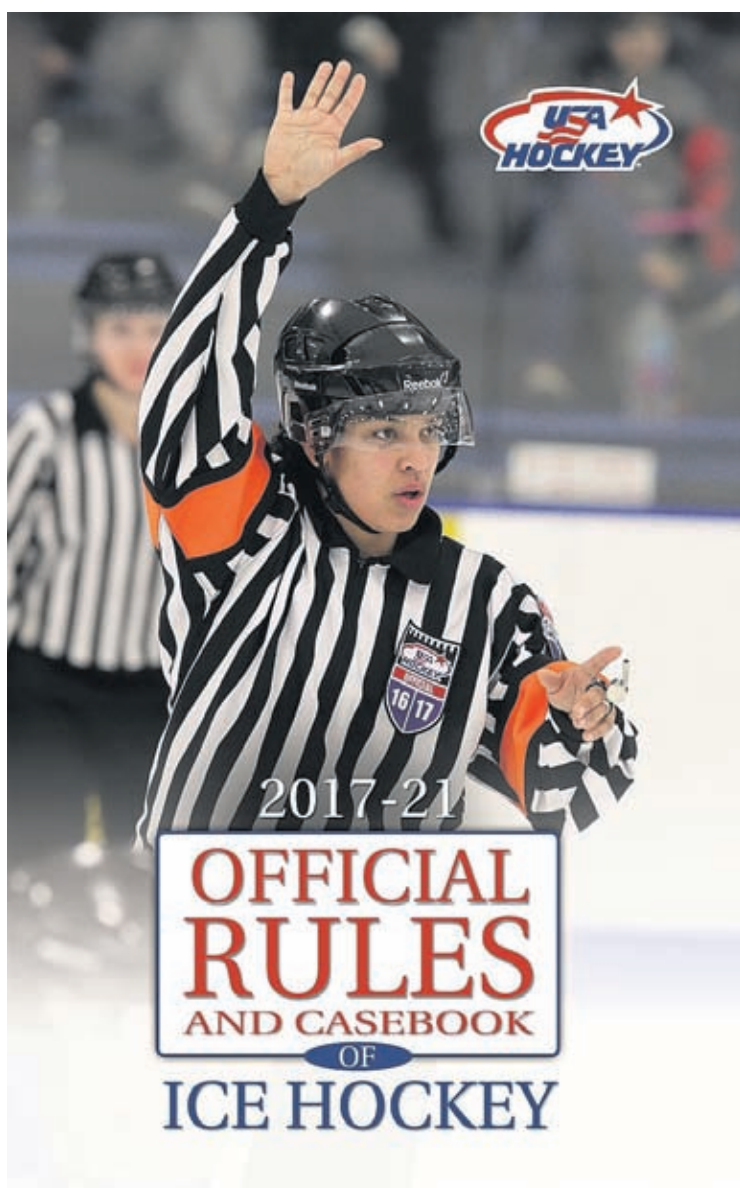
Hockey League (CWHL) this week. The games, between the Calgary Inferno and the Shenzhen KRS Vanke Rays will be played in the Shenzhen Dayun Arena located in Shenzhen, China. Sarah is scheduled to referee at least two of the three games.

The Shenzhen Dayun Arena is part of the Shenzhen Universiade Sports Centre completed in August, 2011

for the 2011 Summer Universiade. It is used for basketball, gymnastics and ice hockey. With a capacity of 18,000 spectators, the arena is the home of the Shenzhen KRS Vanke Rays, formerly called Kunlun Red Star WIH of the Canadian Women's Hockey League. On 15 September 2018, the National Hockey League played one pre-season game at the stadium between the Calgary

Flames and Boston Bruins. The games this week are scheduled for Wednesday 20th at 7:30am, Friday 22nd at 7:30am and Saturday 23rd at 2:30am. (Aruba time). You can watch the games at www.cwhl.com/watch.

Sarah is the daughter of Dr. Stephen Hickman and Aruban born Ruth Harms of Amherst, MA, and a granddaughter of yours truly. □





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Honoring and a special birthday at Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH —Recently, Marouska heyliger of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors. The Distinguished Visi-

tor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees are James and Diane Brennan from New Jersey, Jack and Eddi Gorman from Pennsylvania and Dan and Kathy Pedriani also from Pennsylvania. Kathy Pedriani celebrated her birthday on the happy island together with all the honorees. This surely was a memorable celebration!

The honorees stated that they love coming to the island for its friendly people, beautiful weather and the diversity of food. The island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Heyliger together with the representatives of The Marriott Surf Club presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □

Happy Birthday

Bohemian Restaurant: Check In Please



PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, nonconformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about and TONIGHT they even top the eclectic vibe with live Flamenco singer Angela Baidez. Bohemian Restaurant is a different swing, European flair and outside dining, a place from the same owner as the for years already successful Casa Tua restaurants. They know their dance well, but this time they lift it to a different level.



From 8 PM tonight Spanish Paella and much more is on the menu, of course with pairing wines. The beautiful garden of Bohemian will be filled with lights, good food and live music in an intimate, hip and off-beat ambiance. Catchy Rumba Gitana and dramatic Spanish ballads combine with the passionately prepared dishes to tickle your taste buds to the max. Bohemian Restaurant is located on the corner of Barceló Resort in the center of the hi-rise frenzy.

Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barceló Resort.

Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □



Sail Jolly Pirates and Save

ORANJESTAD — Save 20 % on your Jolly Pirates Cruises when you book any cruise on their website and choose for a Super Saver Day. Each of the Jolly Pirates, twin Schooners offer three of Aruba's most unique sailing options.

Jolly Pirates named their most requested tour, Sail, Snorkel, Swim and Swing! The popular morning cruise is offered each day and features three of the is-

land's turquoise imbued swimming and snorkeling areas. Aruba's coastline offers calm areas, to discover the underwater world. It's a promise that you won't soon forget the time you snorkel over the site of the 400ft WWII Shipwreck, Antilla, a remarkable piece of WWII history. Encrusted with coral and loaded with fish thousands of marine critters call this sunken wreck home. Along with your tasty BBQ



and vegetarian options, Jolly Pirate bartenders are serving up smiles and unlimited beverages while you relax on teak decks, swing off a rope and soak up the sunshine all whilst enjoying a perfect day's sail. There are miles of breathtaking scenery to take in

Prefer to sleep in? Each afternoon the Jolly Pirates will give you a three hour perfect mix of sailing, snorkeling, swimming, and a rope swing too. The afternoon cruise is offered everyday between 2pm – 5pm.

Both snorkeling options include ample snorkel time and an inflatable life vest, mask, snorkel and fins are included. Jolly Pirates Sunset sails are offered every night and you can join the party with an unlimited open bar and great music. On each cruise friendly deckhands will turn flips literally to keep spirits buoyed. Their high flying mast-climbing and tumblers are followed by the guests who can take a turn to swing into the Caribbean. A trip highlight! Hold onto your swimsuits and have a ball.

Stop by the Jolly Pirates gift shop, just beside the MooMba Beach Bar if you have questions and grab a souvenir Tee-shirt or an eco-friendly reusable cup. Trips will depart between the Holiday Inn and Marriott Resort.

It's recommended that you reserve in advance. Best discounts are offered online with a 20% savings on Super Saver Calendar Days during February's Promotion. www.jolly-pirates.com □

Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 20 Carnival Bingo

- Experience what Aruba's Carnival Bingo is all about.
- Starts at 8 PM
- Crystal Theatre at the Renaissance
- Facebook Crystal Theater at Renaissance

Thursday 21

Barefoot Beach BBQ

- If you're not barefoot, then you're overdressed. Join us for the Barefoot Beach BBQ on the Renaissance Ocean Suites Beach! A delicious BBQ made to order will be prepared for you accompanied by a build your own salad station, your choice of marinade, side dishes and a decadent dessert station. Have some Family Fun around the grill with live music and a Beach Bar ready to serve you.
- From 6:00 PM till 10:00 PM
- Renaissance Ocean Suites
- Facebook Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino



Friday 22

Welcome to J'ouvert

- Head up to San Nicolas for the biggest Carnival Pyjama Party of the year. Live performances by Galloway Jr. Denzel, various DJ's and much more.
- From 8:00 PM
- Helfrichstraat, San Nicolas
- Facebook Soca Kingdom Carnival Group



Saturday 23

Lighting Parade

- Lights, colors, music, ambience is what this Carnival Parade is all about!
- From 8:00 PM till 2:00 AM
- Starts at Aruba Entertainment in Dakota and ends in front of the Cruise Terminal, Downtown
- Facebook SMAC



Sunday 24

Children's Parade San Nicolas

- 7 Carnival groups, thousands of children will be dancing, jumping and having a great time during their parade. Join the fun and experience the extraordinary Carnival sphere in San Nicolas.
- From 1:00 PM till 6:00 PM
- Starts at Aruba Entertainment in Dakota and ends in front of the Cruise Terminal, Downtown
- Facebook clickcarnaval.com

Monday 25

HAMSA by CreaCirkel

- Come and stylize your own HAMSA HAND wall hanging to ward off negative energies! During this workshop we will bring life and color into our unique handmade papier mâché hamsa --- Fun creative class by Local Artist KALA! Don't miss it
- Starts at 7:30 PM till 9:30 PM
- Cirkel at Caya G.F. Betico Croes 97-I, Oranjestad
- Facebook Cirkel



Tuesday 26

Taste the Authentic Peru

- Enjoy a wonderful culinary experience at this cozy Authentic Peruvian Restaurant.
- From 12:00 PM till 10:00 PM
- J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64, Eagle Beach
- Facebook Asi es mi Peru

SPORTS



This is a Feb. 28, 1951, file photo showing Brooklyn Dodgers baseball player Donald Newcombe in Vero Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

Former Brooklyn Dodgers great Don Newcombe dies at 92

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Don Newcombe, the hard-throwing Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher who was one of the first black players in the major leagues and who went on to win the Rookie of the Year, Most Valuable Player and Cy Young awards, has died. He was 92.

The team confirmed that Newcombe died Tuesday morning after a lengthy illness.

"Don Newcombe's presence and life established him as a role model for Major Leaguers across the country," Dodgers President Stan Kasten said. "He was a constant presence at Dodger Stadium, and players always gravitated to him for his endless advice and leadership. The Dodgers meant everything to him, and we are all fortunate he was a part of our lives." Newcombe, like Dodgers teammate Jackie Robinson, was signed by Branch Rickey from the Negro Leagues and went on to make a huge mark in the major leagues.

Continued on Page 21

CAT TRICK



DeBrincat has 5 points, Blackhawks hold off Senators 8-7

Chicago Blackhawks' Carl Dahlstrom (63) hugs teammate Alex DeBrincat after DeBrincat scored his third goal against the Ottawa Senators during the second period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Feb. 18, 2019, in Chicago.

Associated Press
Page 20

Shiffrin wins city event, locks up World Cup slalom title

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin wrapped up the season-long slalom World Cup title Tuesday, three days after winning her record fourth straight world title in the discipline. And she matched yet another record in the process.

Shiffrin won a parallel city event, defeating Christina Geiger of Germany in both runs to win the final by 0.27 seconds.

The victory gave the American two-time overall champion an insurmountable 203-point lead in the season standings with two races remaining.

Her closest challenger, Slovakia's Petra Vlhova, was beaten by Geiger in the quarterfinals.

"Each run I was pretty good but not always the fastest," Shiffrin said.

"But I was consistent and for tonight, that was enough. It was really fun, actually."

It was Shiffrin's 57th career win and 14th of the season, matching the record for most World Cup victories in a single campaign, set by Swiss great Vreni Schneider in the 1990s.

Ramon Zenhausern of Switzerland won the men's event, beating Olympic champion Andre Myhrer of Sweden in the final.

Marcel Hirscher lost in the quarterfinals but the Austrian seven-time overall champion gained enough World Cup points to lock up the slalom season title. Both Shiffrin and Hirscher have won the crystal globe for best slalom skier six times in the past seven seasons. They both missed the title in 2016, when Sweden's Frida Hansdotter and Norway's Henrik Kristofferson finished top of the rankings.

Beaten by Vlhova in a similar event in Oslo on New Year's Day, this time Shiffrin took the win, but she had to overcome a tough fight with Anna Swenn Larsson in the semifinal.

Cheered by her Swedish home crowd, Larsson won the first run by 0.09 seconds, but Shiffrin edged her by 0.10 in the second run to progress with the smallest margin possible.

In the final, Shiffrin was faster than Geiger twice as the German settled for her career best result and first World Cup podium in eight years.

Shiffrin triumphed despite still suffering from the cold she also had to deal with at the worlds in Are last week.

"I skied as well as I could. Even if I was healthy, I probably wouldn't have been able to do better. Now I have some time to really recover," she said.

Shiffrin will sit out races in Crans Montana this weekend and Sochi next week, before returning to the circuit on March 8-9 for technical events in Spindleruv Mlyn in Czech Republic, the resort where she had her World Cup debut in 2011 at age 15.

In the men's event, Zenhausern beat Hirscher in the quarterfinal on his way to his second career victory, after also winning here last year.

Hirscher still ended up winning the season title as his two main rivals, Clement Noel and Kristoffersen, had gone out in the opening round.

"I am very happy. Winning the title today was one of the reasons for my start here," said Hirscher, who successfully defended his world title in the discipline just two days earlier.

Noel, who won the World Cup slaloms in Wengen and Kitzbuehel last month, looked like defeating Manfred Moelgg of Italy but the Frenchman was disqualified for straddling the final gate. And Kristoffersen, beaten by Norwegian teammate Sebastian Foss-Solevaag, has failed to go beyond the opening round of all six city events he has competed in.

The next men's World Cup races are in Bansko, Bulgaria, from Friday through Sunday. □



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin competes during an alpine ski World Cup women's parallel slalom city event, in Hammarbybacken, Stockholm, Sweden, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

Associated Press

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Kucherov has 5 points as Lightning beat Blue Jackets 5-1

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

Nikita Kucherov had two goals and three assists, and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 5-1 Monday night for their sixth straight win.

Brayden Point scored twice and Steven Stamkos also had a goal for the Lightning, who are 8-1-2 in their last 11 games. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 40 shots and got his 26th win. Kucherov now has 99 points to lead the league, with seven goals in the last five games. Lukas Sedlak scored and Joonas Korpi finished with 15 saves for the Blue Jackets, who had won four straight.

Columbus outshot the Lightning 19-6 in the first period, but Kucherov scored twice. Stamkos made it 3-0 with just 28.1 seconds left in the second, and Point scored twice in the third.

Sedlak spoiled Vasilevskiy's bid for a third consecutive shutout with 1:45 remaining.

CAPITALS 3, KINGS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored two power-play goals, and Washington beat Los Angeles.

It was the 10th multi-goal game this season for Ovechkin, who leads the NHL with 42 goals. He has scored a goal in three straight games and has 12 points (five goals, seven assists) in the past eight games. He is on pace for 57 goals, which would be the second-most in his 14-year career. He scored 65 goals in 2007-08.



Tampa Bay Lightning forward Nikita Kucherov, right, of Russia, scores past Columbus Blue Jackets goalie Joonas Korpi, of Finland, during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Columbus, Ohio, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

Brett Connolly scored Washington's other goal and John Carlson had two assists to go over 300 for his career. Phoenix Copley made 26 saves for his third straight win.

Alex Iafallo and Ilya Kovalchuk had third-period goals for Los Angeles, which is 0-3-2 in its last five.

BLACKHAWKS 8, SENATORS 7

CHICAGO (AP) — Alex DeBrincat had three goals and two assists, and Chicago held on to beat Ottawa for its ninth win in 11 games. Patrick Kane scored his 36th goal and added two assists to extend his point streak to 18 games — with

14 goals and 26 assists during the stretch—the longest by a player in the NHL this season.

Dylan Strome also had a goal and two assists in his fourth three-point game since joining the Blackhawks on Nov. 25, and Brandon Saad, Gustav Forsling and Jonathan Toews also scored.

Colin White had two goals and an assist, Thomas Chabot scored twice, and Mark Stone, Bobby Ryan and Rudolf Balcers also had goals for NHL-worst Ottawa, which lost for the eighth time in its last 11.

BRUINS 6, SHARKS 5

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) —

Charlie McAvoy scored his fourth goal of the season with 1:01 left in overtime and Boston beat San Jose in a game featuring two of the NHL's hottest teams.

The Bruins won their season-best sixth straight game and extended their point streak to 11 games (8-0-3). Boston moved to three points ahead of Toronto for second place in the Atlantic Division.

The Sharks lost despite Joe Thornton's fifth career hat trick. San Jose had won seven of its previous eight games and 14 of 18 going into Monday.

AVANLACHE 3, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 0

DENVER (AP) — Andrew Agozzino scored his first NHL goal, Semyon Varlamov stopped 40 shots for his second shutout of the season and Colorado ended a six-game home skid.

Tyson Jost and Matt Calvert also scored as the Avalanche won their first game at the Pepsi Center since Jan. 19. Agozzino also added an assist.

Malcolm Subban had 35 saves for a Golden Knights team that's now dropped eight of their last 11 games. Subban started back-to-back games for the first time all season with Vegas electing to rest Marc-Andre Fleury.

FLAMES 5, COYOTES 2

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Michael Frolik and Mikael Backlund each had a goal and an assist in the third period to help Calgary beat Arizona.

Mark Giordano also had a goal and an assist, and Derek Ryan and Austin Czarnik had the other goals for the Flames, who won their second straight to improve to 3-3-2 since the All-Star break.

Elias Lindholm assisted on both third-period goals, Rasmus Andersson also had two assists, and Mike Smith stopped 27 shots in his third straight start (2-0-1).

Conor Garland and Jordan Weal scored for the Coyotes. Calvin Pickard finished with 29 saves in his third start for Arizona since being claimed off waivers from Philadelphia on Nov. 29. □

Jagr, back from injuries, plays in Czech second-league game



Ex-NHL player Jaromir Jagr plays for Kladno in action against Havirov team during their first Czech Hockey League match, in Havirov, Czech Republic, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

HAVIROV, Czech Republic (AP) — Jaromir Jagr is back again.

The Czech winger and 13-time NHL All-Star has recovered from a series of injuries that prevented him from playing for more than a year and appeared in a game Monday for the Kladno Knights, the hometown club he owns in the Czech Republic.

Jagr, 47, played on the top line alongside center Tomas Plekanec, another former NHL player.

He didn't score in nearly 18 minutes but celebrated as Kladno, boosted by his presence, won 2-0 at Havirov in a Czech

second-league game.

"Above all, I'm happy that I was finally able to play," Jagr said. "It's not easy in my age just to train."

Kladno, in fourth place, is seeking to reach the playoffs and qualify for the top league. It is 13 points behind first-place Jihlava but trails second-place Vsetin by three points with three more regular season games to go.

Jagr returned home after the Calgary Flames released the NHL's second all-time leading point-scorer on Jan. 28, 2018, but he was injured in his fifth game for Kladno. □

Newcombe dies at 92

Continued from Page 21

"Newk" was a fierce presence on the mound, a 6-foot-4 and 225-pound bear of a man who stared down hitters and backed up anyone foolish enough to crowd the plate.

He was a four-time All-Star and won 20 games three different times.

"Don Newcombe had a ton of talent and he was a great competitor," former Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, who was a teammate of Newcombe's, said in a statement. "He was a helluva pitcher and he was one of the best hitting pitchers I have ever seen." His greatest year was 1956 when he went 27-7 and won both the Cy Young Award, then only given to one pitcher for both leagues, and the National League MVP award.

"He was a powerhouse. I don't think he really got enough credit for his overall performance," said former teammate Carl Erskine. "He threw a fastball that had great location and a curveball that was a short, hard breaking pitch." Newcombe, Robinson and catcher Roy Campanella were a trio of black stars for the Dodgers who often supported each other.

"We came up with a strategy," Newcombe later recalled. "We knew the impact we were attempting would have. We had to endure. (Robinson's) character, his backbone, his guts — those were the keys. Jackie was the leader under Mr. Rickey."

The three talked frequently, Campanella and Newcombe from the Dodgers' Nashua, New Hampshire, farm team and Robinson from Brooklyn.

"We talked about how things were going," Newcombe said. "What if somebody charged the mound on me? What would I do? Nobody did."

"I remember in the New England league, a catcher threw dirt in Roy's face. He said, 'If you do that again, I'll personally take your arm out of its socket.' They challenged us. They did any-

thing they could to break down the idea."

Newcombe's Dodgers were perennial also-rans who specialized in winning the National League pennant then losing the World Series to the Yankees. Newcombe played on three pennant winners with the Dodgers and the World Series champions in 1955, the year they finally beat the Yankees.

Born June 14, 1926, in Madison, New Jersey, Newcombe pitched in the Negro Leagues starting in 1944 at age 18. In 1945 he had an 8-3 record with the Newark Eagles and won the attention of the Brooklyn Dodgers organization.

In 1989, at a reunion of Negro League greats, Newcombe gave a speech in Atlanta where he reflected on his experience.

"I wish that in some few words I could wipe away that pain you've suffered so long because you have skin this color," he said. "We know that we would not be here today if it were not for the Negro Leagues. I thank God I had the chance to walk shoulder to shoulder with you."

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said Newcombe was a friend and mentor who had a great impact on his life.

"What he did for baseball, as being one of the first African-American players, his career with the Dodgers and how he impacted the organization," Roberts said after spring training workouts in Glendale, Arizona. "Sharing stories about Jackie Robinson and his plight helped me and furthered my education on our history, so we lost a great man, a great Dodger today."

When asked if he shares Newcombe's history with current players, so they understand his accomplishments and his sacrifices, Roberts said, "Absolutely, Don was around a lot for games and he would spend time with our players individually and as a team. So, for his legacy to live on, through me, through other players is paramount."



In this June 8, 2016, file photo, former Dodgers player Don Newcombe, second from right, reacts as he stands with his wife, Karen, center, manager Dave Roberts, left, Kenley Jansen, second from left, and Joc Pederson, right, as the Dodgers celebrate Newcombe's 90th birthday prior to a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Dodgers reliever Kenley Jansen was close with Newcombe and said he was at Jansen's wedding.

"He'd always talk to me about how strong I have to be. He spoke to me a lot about mental toughness and physical preparation, running, conditioning. He'd say be aggressive out there. He kept me motivated," Jansen said in a statement on Twitter. "He taught me about the history of the game. He talked to me about being a leader. He talked to me about being a good husband and a good father."

Newcombe played in Nashua of the New England League and for teams in Montreal, Venezuela and Cuba before joining the parent club in 1949.

He went 17-8 in 1949, his first season with the Dodgers and was named NL Rookie of the Year.

On July 8, 1949, Newcombe and Hank Thompson of the New York Giants became the first black pitcher and hitter to face each other in a major league game.

In 1950 Newcombe went 19-11, and in 1951 went 20-9, but he failed to win the season's most important game. He was the starting pitcher in the decisive playoff series between the Dodgers and the Giants, and he held a 4-1 lead going into the ninth inning. But he gave up three hits to the first four batters and was replaced by Ralph Bran-

ca, who quickly achieved baseball infamy when Bobby Thomson lofted a pennant-winning home run, "the shot heard 'round the world."

Like many ballplayers of his generation, Newcombe lost some prime years to military service, giving the Army the 1952 and 1953 seasons. "Wait until next year" had become a virtual mantra in Brooklyn as the Dodgers won the National League title in 1947, 1949, 1952 and 1953, only to lose the World Series every time. Then came 1955, "the year next year finally came" in Brooklyn parlance.

The Dodgers finally beat the Yankees in the World Series and Newcombe went 20-5 during the regular season, winning 18 of his first 19 decisions. On the day of his 20th win he hit his seventh home run of the season, a National League record for a pitcher at the time.

But Newcombe always struggled in the postseason. He lost the first game of the 1955 series to the Yankees and was passed over in favor of Johnny Podres after preparing to pitch in Game 7. He was 0-4 with an 8.59 ERA in career World Series appearances.

In his MVP year of 1956, Newcombe became the first black pitcher to lead either league in wins. Brooklyn won another pennant that year, but lost the World Series to the Yankees in seven games, with New-

combe defeated in the final game.

Newcombe faded quickly after 1956 as he pitched for the transplanted Los Angeles Dodgers, Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Indians.

He had a brief resurgence for the Reds, going 13-8 with a 3.16 ERA in 1959.

In a 10-year major-league career he had a 149-90 record and a 3.56 ERA.

He pitched for Spokane, Washington, in the Pacific Coast League in 1961 and finished his professional career in Japan in 1962.

Alcoholism helped lead to his early retirement. He gave up drinking in later years and worked for drug and alcohol prevention programs. He continued working for the Dodgers, most recently as special adviser to the chairman.

He was a frequent presence at the stadium in recent years, always nattily attired in a suit and tie with a fedora atop his head.

He took part with Sandy Koufax in a first pitch ceremony before Game 7 of the 2017 World Series vs. Houston at Dodger Stadium and was at the park for last fall's World Series vs Boston.

In 2011, Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander joined Newcombe as the second man to sweep the sport's three major awards. Newcombe introduced Verlander at the following year's Baseball Writers Association dinner. □

Tony Clark: Some teams make little effort to justify ticket costs



In this July 9, 2017, file photo, Tony Clark, head of the MLB Players Association, stands on the field before the All-Star Futures baseball game in Miami.

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Players' union head Tony Clark took the extraordinary step of saying baseball fans should question whether it makes sense to purchase tickets for some teams, responding to Commissioner Rob Manfred's assertion that free-agent players have failed to adjust their economic demands in a market upended by analytics. Top free agents Bryce Harper, Manny Machado, Craig Kimbrel and Dallas Keuchel remain unsigned with spring training under way, creating tension during negotiations on management's proposals for a pitch clock and new limitations on relief pitchers. The union responded with a wider list of plans that include economic initiatives such as expanding the designated hitter to the National League and altering the amateur draft to make rebuilding less appealing. "Markets change," Manfred said Sunday. "We've had a lot of change in the game. People think about players differently. They analyze players differently. They negotiate differently." Clark led negotiations in 2016 for a five-year labor deal. Players have increasingly been outspoken about their unhappiness during a second straight slow free-agent market, one that has seen many veterans take significant pay cuts and others remain without deals.

Associated Press

"Players' eyes don't deceive them, nor do fans'," Clark said in a statement Monday. "As players report to spring training and see respected veterans and valued teammates on the sidelines, they are rightfully frustrated by a two-year attack on free agency. Players commit to compete every pitch of every at-bat, and every inning of every game. Yet we're operating in an environment in which an increasing number of clubs appear to be making little effort to improve their rosters, compete for a championship or justify the price of a ticket." Average attendance has dropped for three straight seasons and last year fell below 30,000 per game for the first time since 2003. Players rebuffed management's proposal for a pitch clock ahead of the 2017 and 2018 seasons. Management made the unilateral decision to experiment with a pitch clock during spring training. Manfred has said he is reticent to change regular-season playing rules unless players agree. "Players have made a sincere attempt to engage with clubs on their proposals to improve pace of play and enhance the game's appeal to fans," Clark said. "At the same time, we have presented wide-ranging ideas that value substance over seconds and ensure the best players are on the field every day. We believe these substantive changes

are imperative now — not in 2022 or 2025, but in 2019." Players have become increasingly outspoken about the slow pace of agreements and have mentioned the possibility of a work stoppage in 2022.

"Everybody sees it. It's obviously not good for baseball," said Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout, a two-time AL MVP who can become a free agent after the 2020 season.

The union is concerned that too many teams are rebuilding, trying to emulate the Houston Astros. Houston lost 106 to 111 games in three straight years from 2011-13, earned three straight No. 1 draft picks and won its first World Series title in 2017.

"This narrative that our teams aren't trying is just not supported by the facts," Manfred said. "Our teams are trying. Every single one of them wants to win. It may look a little different to outsiders because the game has changed, the way that people think about the game, the way that people think about putting a winning team together has changed, but that doesn't mean they're not trying."

Chicago Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts defended his team's decision not to spend money on this off-season's most illustrious free agents.

"That's a pretty easy question to answer. We don't have any more," he said. "The fact is that we've been in the top five in spending, in baseball spending, for the last five or six years. We're in the top couple last year. We've put our money back on the field. Unfortunately, you just can't have a high-profile free agent every single year. And part of that is obviously is how much it costs, whatever, \$25 million, \$30 million it's going to cost, plus it's a 10-year commitment. ... As much as I would love to have a great, new, exciting player every single season, it just can't happen every year." □



In this June 20, 2016, file photo, then-U.S. men's soccer coach Jürgen Klinsmann talks to reporters during a Copa America Centenario news conference, in Houston.

Associated Press

Jürgen Klinsmann received \$3.35M settlement from USSF

CHICAGO (AP) — Jürgen Klinsmann received a \$3.35 million settlement of his contract with the U.S. Soccer Federation, according to the USSF's tax filing. His replacement, Bruce Arena, was given a \$300,000 settlement during the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2018, according to the filing, which was released Monday. Klinsmann was hired in 2011 and in December 2013 was given a contract extension through December 2018. He was fired in November 2016 after an 0-2 start in the final round of World Cup qualifying in North and Central America and the

Caribbean. His contract was settled for \$3,354,167, the tax filing said.

Arena earned \$899,348 in base pay during the fiscal year and a \$50,000 bonus, according to the filing, which was first reported by The Washington Post. He quit after the U.S. loss at Trinidad and Tobago in October 2017 that ended the Americans' streak of seven straight World Cup appearances.

Dave Sarachan, Arena's top assistant, was the interim coach from October 2017 through last November. He had a base salary of \$223,656 during the fiscal year. □

No. 1 Naomi Osaka loses 1st match since splitting from coach

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Naomi Osaka lost her first match since moving up to No. 1 in the WTA rankings — and first since splitting from her coach. The two-time major champion had trouble with her serve and was beaten 6-3, 6-3 by Kristina Mladenovic at the Dubai Championships in a little more than an hour on Tuesday. Osaka had not competed since winning the Australian Open in January for her second consecutive Grand Slam title. That victory also



Naomi Osaka, of Japan, reacts during her match against Kristina Mladenovic, of France, at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

Associated Press

allowed her to become the first tennis player from Asia to lead the rankings. □

USA Gymnastics hires NBA exec Li Li Leung as new CEO

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

Li Li Leung spent two years watching USA Gymnastics struggle through the aftermath of the Larry Nassar sexual abuse scandal. A former college gymnast at the University of Michigan who still considered herself "embedded" in the sport while serving as a vice president with the NBA, Leung kept waiting for things to get better.

Only they didn't. Leadership changed. More and more survivors stepped forward to detail their experiences at the hands of Nassar, a former national team doctor. The United States Olympic Committee began the process of stripping USA Gymnastics of its status as the national governing body. One of the U.S. Olympic movement's marquee programs was rudderless and fighting for its survival.

"I was frankly very, very disappointed in terms of where the sport and the organization had gotten to," Leung said.

So disappointed that she felt compelled to come home.

USA Gymnastics hired Leung as its new president and chief executive officer



This 2019 photo provided by USA Gymnastics shows Li Li Leung. USA Gymnastics is turning to NBA executive Li Li Leung to help turn the embattled program around.

Associated Press

on Tuesday, a job she accepted in an effort to help the organization and the sport find a way forward.

"I have bled, sweated and cried alongside my teammates as well as other team members and other gymnasts," Leung said Tuesday. "And it really broke my heart to see where the sport was. We can do better for the sport. ... Our gymnasts deserve better."

The 45-year-old Leung, who will begin her new position on March 8, competed as a member of a U.S. junior national training team and represented the U.S. in the 1988 Junior Pan American Games. She helped Michigan win four Big Ten titles

during her college career and served as a volunteer assistant gymnastics coach while earning two master's degrees at the University of Massachusetts. Her professional stops include stints at USA Basketball and the NBA.

Now she returns to the sport she started in at age 7, hoping to prevent USA Gymnastics from being decertified by the USOC.

USA Gymnastics filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in December in an effort to reach settlements in the dozens of sex-abuse lawsuits it faces in courts across the country from athletes who blame the group for failing to su-

pervise Nassar, a team doctor accused of molesting them.

The 55-year-old Nassar worked at USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University for decades. He is serving an effective life sentence for child porn possession and molesting young women and girls under the guise of medical treatment.

Leung said she has already spoken to USOC CEO Sarah Hirshland and that "both sides are committed to working closely to resolve the decertification request."

"We remain hopeful, that USA Gym will be the (national governing body) going forward," Leung said.

Hirshland called Leung "an accomplished professional" in a statement and expressed optimism about the direction of the organization under Leung's leadership.

"I'm very hopeful that Li Li's combination of experience and desire to lead will be a positive force for change in the lives of gymnasts all over the country," Hirshland said.

Leung is the fourth person to hold the position of president and CEO in the last two years. Steve Penny

resigned under pressure in March 2017. His replacement, Kerry Perry, lasted less than a year when she stepped down under heavy scrutiny from the USOC last September.

The organization then turned to former U.S. Rep. Mary Bono on an interim basis last October, but she resigned after just four days, saying she felt her affiliation would be a "liability" after a social media post by Bono criticizing Nike and former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick drew widespread scrutiny within the gymnastics community.

Leung acknowledged she is well aware of the churn at the top but added, "I wouldn't have taken this job if I didn't think I could have been successful in it." USA Gymnastics surveyed more than 200 members of the gymnastics community during the process, including current or former athletes, coaches, club owners and judges. Board chair Kathryn Carson said Leung "has the passion, the personal commitment and the resilience to lead USA Gymnastics at this juncture."

Leung's to-do list includes what she called "fair and equitable resolution" with Nassar survivors so "they can work with us to make the fundamental changes that are necessary." USA Gymnastics has been criticized over the last two years for its tone-deaf approach.

Olympic champion Simone Biles, herself a Nassar victim, openly challenged Perry's inability to articulate a path toward reconciliation before the national championships last August. Less than a month later, Perry was out of a job.

John Manly, a California-based attorney representing dozens of athletes suing USA Gymnastics, dismissed Leung's hire as "business as usual." Manly called Leung "an insider" and said survivors were "ignored" after asking to be part of the process. □

Hurricanes owner Dundon invests \$250 million in Alliance

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

Carolina Hurricanes owner Tom Dundon is investing \$250 million in the Alliance of American Football.

Dundon also will serve as chairman of the fledgling eight-team league that began play on Feb. 9. His involvement came together in a matter of days last week, according to Dundon and Alliance co-founder Charlie Ebersol, though Dundon had been monitoring the AAF's development and debut.

"This has been an extraordinary undertaking for us," said Ebersol, who less than a year ago partnered with Pro Football Hall of Fame executive Bill Polian to create the Alliance. "It's a



In this May 9, 2018, file photo, Carolina Hurricanes owner and CEO Tom Dundon takes questions during an NHL hockey news conference in Raleigh, N.C.

Associated Press

giant challenge and opportunity, and as a startup you are constantly looking for some peace of mind. When we got out of the first week of games, we saw there was so much inter-

est from investors, and if we had one person who could take care of us for a very long time, that would be great."

"We won't bring in anybody for capital. We're

not going to take people's money," he said. "We have to decide who are the partners we want to be in business with. The Alliance already has great relationships with partners such as MGM (Resorts). There won't be any money-raising. It will be growing the business."

"It's so early into this. We're all in the entertainment business, so we're just making sure to continue to do what they have done, which is put out a quality product people want to watch and consume, and hopefully we have the capital in place to take advantage of new opportunities. Things are a lot easier when you have got the capital and connections to execute." □



By: Dr Carlos Viana

With my eyes closed my airplane instructor twists and turns the plane so that it is not flying level. This is a classic "unusual attitude" training every pilot needs to repeat to stay a safe pilot. I groan as I fight to keep from vomiting my breakfast. "OK, open your eyes and straighten the aircraft", orders my instructor. I open my eyes to find my instructor has covered my airplane instruments. Not good my instincts scream. Facing out to sea I cannot tell the difference between sky and ocean and my brain is telling me we are turning left.

The seconds tick off as I try to adjust the aircraft to what I feel is going on. "Now", I say implying that I think I have control of the airplane to my instructor as he uncovers my airplane instruments. As I look at my instruments. I am headed into the ground turning slowly in a classic flying problem, called the "graveyard spiral". I have done this maneuver before and I know that in a spinning cockpit I have to trust my instruments even though my sense of balance, coming from my middle ear is telling me different. I line up the plane according to my instruments and start feeling a sensation of whirling or tilting that causes a loss of balance, a dizziness that puts my stomach wanting to give up breakfast. "Vertigo", I complain as my instructor intently watches to make sure I have regained composure of both the plane and myself.

Whirling Rooms

Vertigo from Latin that means "whirling about" describes a medical condition in which somebody feels the sensation of dizziness with the room spinning. Dizziness is an indistinct term which describes a variety of conditions ranging from lightheadedness, unsteadiness to vertigo and spans a large range of symptoms. These symptoms range from the most dramatic, vertigo, to the least severe, imbalance. Included in these feelings is fainting, which results in a loss of consciousness.

As a private pilot I know it is the sensory system located in the inner ear that helps the body to maintain balance. Balance in the human body is coordinated by the brainstem, which collects information from other parts of the brain and sensory organs throughout the body.

The sensory organs that play critical roles relaying information to the brain-stem include the skin, eyes, muscles and joints, and the vestibular system in the inner ear. Dizziness may result with dysfunction in any of these components or in the nerves that connect them.

French physician Prosper Mènière described Mènière's disease as having four particular symptoms: vertigo lasting for an hour or more, but less than 24 hours; ringing or buzzing sounds in the ear; feeling of pressure or fullness in the ear; and some hearing loss. Some people are affected in both ears; others just one ear. Onset of Mènière's is sometimes related to stress. Regular medicine usually looks for problems with the inner ear for dizzy symptoms. However, most people that we see have been dizzy for more than a couple of days.

As a Traditional Chinese Medical (TCM) physician I know the liver is involved in many problems with dizziness. The liver detoxifies our blood and an overworked liver produces a condition that we call "liver fire"; whose symptoms are dizziness, pain on the sides of the head at the temples, a sensation that you are choking, heart palpitations, and stomach upset.

People with liver fire usually have a green hue around their mouths, wake up around 3:00am and get angry easily.

Lifestyle choices, including eating processed foods, taking pharmaceutical or other drugs, working or living with chemicals, bombardment of EMF's (electrometric fields) and not getting enough exercise all contribute to our toxic overload, making it impossible for our livers to work efficiently. Interestingly, historically this condition was known here in Aruba and was called 'madder'. TCM views a healthy Liver as "The General" who sends energy in the form of fluid to various parts of the body. If the General's "palace," the liver, is on fire, the chain of command is broken. Menstrual flow becomes heavy or "reckless" and menstrual problems; bladder and painful lower stomachs develop. Although, sexual desire drops, satisfying sexual activity is a great way to help "calm" the Liver. In our clinic we have found acupuncture treatments to be fantastic in improving a "hot" Liver, therefore helping dizzy symptoms.

Milk Thistle, Astragalus root, Black Cohosh root, Don Quai Root, Red Clover and Rhodiola root as well as Evening Primrose Oil are beneficial herbs and oils for the liver. You improve liver function by slowing down alcohol consumption, exercising and eating natural food that is good for your metabolic type and prepare food that has not been fried, helps dramatically.

Get The Point!

Modern life can affect our body's equilibrium, particularly because of the toxins we are exposed to every day in our air, water and food. Additionally, sedentary lifestyle, chemicals, medicines, electrometric fields from computers, electrical transformers and cell phone towers all affect our balance.

The right diet, acupuncture and herbs can help our body regain control of the spinning room. After you and you have explored possible infections of your inner ear, ruled out anemia, brain tumors, stroke, migraines, epilepsy, or multiple sclerosis, all which may result in feelings of dizziness; come in to have a TCM liver evaluation. Let us help you cool the fire in your body's palace and stop the whirling room. □

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I owe how much? Americans shocked by impact of new tax law

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
Associated Press

Wait, I owe the IRS?

The first tax filing season under the new federal tax law is proving to be surprising, confusing — and occasionally frightening — for some Americans, especially those accustomed to getting money back from the government.

Take Andy Kraft and Amy Elias of Portland, Oregon. The couple had grown comfortable getting a small refund each year, a few hundred dollars or more. Then they found out they owe \$10,160 this year. "I will never forget the moment, I thought 'We look good' and then we added in the next W-2 and my jaw hit the floor," Kraft said. "There was no way I wanted to believe that what I was looking at was accurate."

President Trump promised a reduction in taxes with the new law. And by most measures, the majority of Americans will see one. The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center projected the tax law would reduce individual income taxes by about \$1,260 on average, although it benefits higher earners more.

So not everyone will see a massive tax bill or a drop in their refund. Some people already saw the benefit in the form of bigger paychecks. That's because the law forced employers to change what they withheld. But the system is far from perfect, and many workers didn't have enough in taxes set aside. Now, the IRS wants that money.

In addition, the law also eliminated personal exemptions, increased child credits, limited popular deductions and generally upended many familiar practices that determine what happens at tax time. That has taxpayers feeling a bit unmoored.

"We were very comfortable with our tax law, it had basically been there since 1986, suddenly all these things that were very important to people changed ... it's all differ-



In this Friday, Feb. 15, 2019, photo Kevin McCreanor works on a laptop near paperwork in Atlanta. Associated Press

ent," said Howard Gleckman, a senior fellow at the Tax Policy Center.

Kraft and Elias are able to pay their tax bill but he's still stunned. He even tried to reverse-engineer things to figure out where they went wrong, diving into page after page of IRS rules. He painstakingly put together all the numbers. The couple ultimately asked a CPA to verify the figures they were seeing on TurboTax. Crushingly, they were correct.

Their total tax was up slightly — by about \$300 because of changes to their financial picture. Their effective tax rate was lower, but they still owed the government.

"I feel like I have reached a stage of grief of acceptance," he said. "In a twisted way I should have been paying this all year and now I just have to pay it in one lump sum."

A number of experts such as Gleckman are urging taxpayers to obsess less about their refund or what they owe when measuring the effect of the new tax law. These are just a sliver of your tax picture.

But the truth is, many Americans have come to rely on refunds. About three-quarters of U.S. taxpayers typically get one and they had

averaged around \$2,800. For some low-income households it is the biggest cash infusion of the year.

The IRS reported Thursday that the average tax refund as of the second week of filing season was \$1,949, down 8.7 percent from the year earlier. The total number of refunds is down 16 percent.

Experts caution it is too early to draw conclusions about a tax season that ends in April. Plus, the number of returns — 27 million as of Feb. 8 — is down 10 percent from a year ago, due in part to the partial government shutdown. The picture will become much clearer as more filings are processed, refunds are issued and the IRS gets back up to full speed.

All the same, the initial results have surprised early filers and worried those who haven't yet tackled their

taxes.

It is at best, an estimate. But it's an estimate that grew drastically more difficult to make under the new law.

The Government Accountability Office estimated in a report last summer that about 30 million workers had too little withheld from their paychecks, which made their take home pay bigger but increased their tax liability. That's about 3 million more workers than normal.

Few taxpayers appear to have heeded the IRS' advice to do a "paycheck checkup" to make sure they had the proper amount withheld. Payroll processor ADP, which is responsible for paying one out of every six Americans, said the vast majority of people in its system didn't update their withholdings last year.

Some taxpayers who did

make adjustments found they couldn't get it quite right.

Kevin McCreanor of Milton, Georgia and his wife normally get a sizeable refund each year — it was more than \$12,000 last year. While they know waiting for a large refund isn't the best strategy financially, they like a refund and they put anything they get back toward their daughters' education. Their income, earned primarily from his wife's job in telecom, can vary greatly, so there was comfort in never facing a big bill.

The couple increased her paycheck withholdings to ensure the same but found they are only getting back \$519 this year. Their income and tax rate did increase, and McCreanor acknowledges there is probably more he could have done to prepare but he is very disappointed all the same. Some surprises were welcome, however. Brian Goodell and his wife typically face a tax bill of anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 each year. But this year the Tigard, Oregon, couple is getting a \$15,000 refund. They believe they got some benefit from the increased child tax credit. They also made more charitable donations and increased their withholdings. While Goodell isn't entirely sure why it worked out so well, he'll gladly take the refund. □




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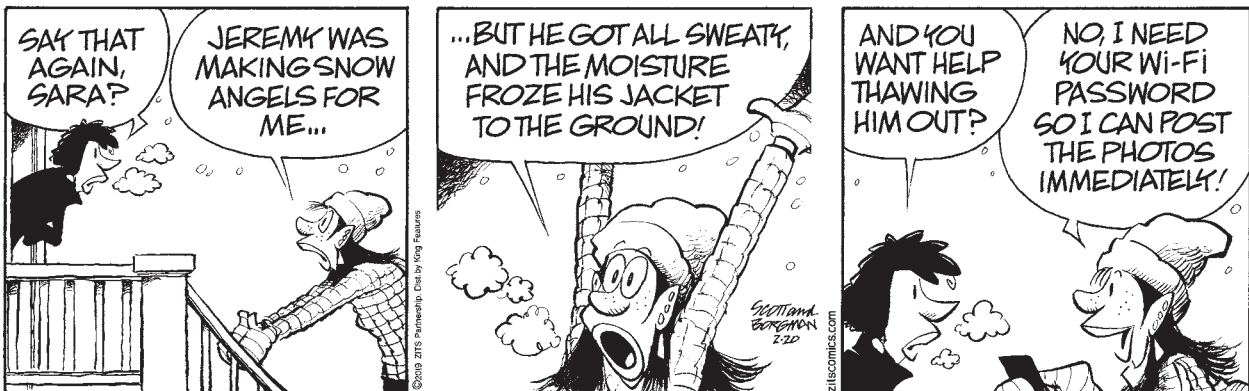
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7	4			5			
8			3		4		5	
			9		8		7	
			7		2		1	
		5			1	8	4	7
	3						2	
1							8	
5							6	
3	6	2	1				9	

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/20

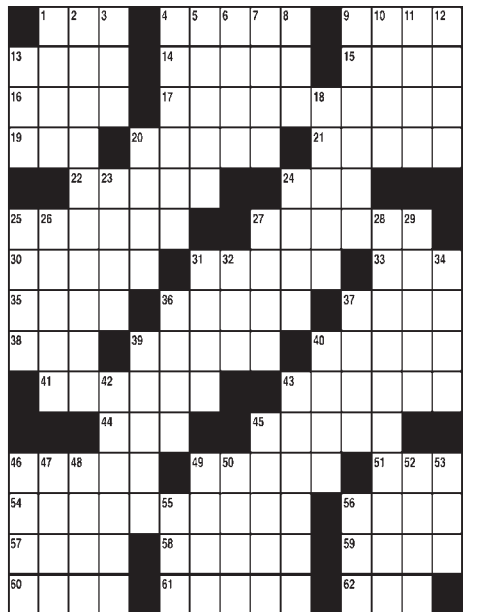
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	6	3	1	7	8	2	5	9
9	8	1	3	2	5	7	6	4
2	5	7	9	4	6	8	1	3
1	2	4	5	6	3	9	8	7
5	9	6	2	8	7	3	4	1
3	7	8	4	9	1	6	2	5
6	4	2	7	1	9	5	3	8
7	1	5	8	3	2	4	9	6
8	3	9	6	5	4	1	7	2

ACROSS

- 1 Short sleep
- 4 British racecourse
- 9 Slaughtered
- 13 Baking __; fridge fresher
- 14 Part of NASA
- 15 Oz visitor
- 16 Singer Williams
- 17 Capital of Arkansas
- 19 Luau dish
- 20 Actress Claire
- 21 Gracefully flexible
- 22 Strong string
- 24 ABC followers
- 25 Customer
- 27 Trickery; fraud
- 30 Street uprisings
- 31 Swindle
- 33 Unruly crowd
- 35 Overnight stops
- 36 Bundle of wheat
- 37 __ on; incite
- 38 "Who Wants to Millionaire?"
- 39 Melon or squash
- 40 __ firma; dry land
- 41 Zigzag skiing
- 43 Truthful
- 44 Embargo
- 45 __ with; grows close to
- 46 Acting award
- 49 Small weights
- 51 British title
- 54 Tourist's stop in Washington, D.C.
- 56 Costa __
- 57 Musical symbol
- 58 California athlete
- 59 Kitchen appliance
- 60 Candy store chain
- 61 Unkempt
- 62 Berth or cot



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/20/19

DOWN

- 1 Advice to Nanette
- 2 Extra; supplementary
- 3 __ for; buy
- 4 Tilted
- 5 Backbone
- 6 Actress Blanchett
- 7 Fall months: abbr.
- 8 Israel's __ Aviv
- 9 Bitter conflict
- 10 Money, slangily
- 11 Engrave
- 12 Roused
- 13 Maple tree secretion
- 18 Chosen few
- 20 Clamors
- 23 Dampens
- 24 Unable to hear
- 25 Baby's bed
- 26 Read between the __
- 27 No longer with us
- 28 Remarkable
- 29 Sightseeing trips
- 31 Pal
- 32 That woman
- 34 Babysitter's bane
- 36 Before long
- 37 __ in the Clowns"; Judy Collins hit
- 39 Stare angrily
- 40 Heavy weights
- 42 Diminishes
- 43 Unattractive
- 45 First, second and third
- 46 Possesses
- 47 Loafer or moccasin
- 48 Give a traffic ticket to
- 49 __ with the "Wind"
- 50 Carpets
- 52 __ tea
- 53 __ away; fled
- 55 Show-off
- 56 Steal from

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

CARD	SHEEP	SCAN
OVER	CESAR	HERO
LILY	REPRESENTS	
DDE	TIDY	PATSY
	NORMS	MAR
CATNAP	CARSON	
ALLEY	CLOVE	BIB
LIES	GOODS	FLEE
LBS	GLOBE	JUICE
ISSUES	HUNGER	
HIE	FONDA	
CAROL	HOLE	TUB
ABOVEBOARD	TOFU	
BLUE	OUNCE	IRON
SETS	ORDER	CYST

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2/20/19

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Divi Village

1 BR WK # 8 & 9
21 & 25 weeks remain
\$9000 each
Divi links Golf
1 BR WK# 8 & 9
27 weeks remain
\$9000 each

Tropicana Resort

1 BR WK # 5,6,7,8
Ground floor \$7000 each
1 BR WK 7 & 8 \$7000 each
Dutch Village
1 BR WK 8 \$8500
24 weeks remain

For Rent

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK # 8 \$2000
23 February 2 March 2019
Divi Links Golf
Studio WK #8 \$1500
23 February 2 March 2019

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Catiri

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Ponton
4 Bedroom , 3 Bath
Swimming pool \$350K
Aruba Divi Phoenix
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6th floor 28 weeks \$16K
Costa Linda Beach Resorts
2 BR wk #10 3rd floor
Light House view \$25K

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum
1 BR Ocean View \$10,000
2 BR Ocean View \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$24,000

House for sale

Opal

3 bedroom , 2 bath \$ 325K
Divi Village
Studio
Wk 5,6,7,8 ground floor
Golf view \$8000 each

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 11 & 12
26 weeks remain each
\$9000 each
Studio Wk 11
26 weeks remain \$8000

Marriott Surf Club

2 BR Garden Vie w \$14,000
2 BR Ocean View \$ 15,000
2 BR Ocean Side \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27,000

La Cabana Beach & Casino

1 Br Wk # 11 & 12
4th floor pool/Ocean view
Sunday check in \$ 18, 000 both
Divi Village
Studio WK # 6
22 weeks remain \$8000

Renaissance Suites

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4th Floor Harbor/Ocean View
Aruba Divi Phoenix
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building 6
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Trump orders creation of Space Force, but within Air Force

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday directed the Pentagon to develop plans to create a new Space Force within the Air Force, accepting less than the full-fledged department he'd wanted.

Before signing a document instructing the defense secretary to draft proposed legislation, Trump said space is the "future" and the "next step."

"We have to be prepared," he said in the Oval Office, flanked by Vice President Mike Pence, acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan and other top officials.

Trump initially said he wanted a Space Force that was "separate but equal" to the other military services. The current proposal falls short of that goal and faces some skepticism among lawmakers.

If approved by Congress, the Space Force would be part of the Air Force, just as the Marine Corps is part of the Navy. It would not have its own full-blown bureaucracy, including a civilian secretary. It would instead have a Senate-confirmed undersecretary for space within the Air Force.



President Donald Trump pauses during a signing event for "Space Policy Directive 4" in the Oval Office of the White House, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

It would be the first new uniformed military service since 1947, when the Air Force was created after World War II.

The president's lofty vision for a Space Force became a hit at his campaign rallies last year, with supporters cheering and applauding the mere mention of a military force devoted to policing outer space. But the idea encountered resistance both inside and outside the administration among those who questioned the need and the potential costs.

Before Trump ordered the Pentagon in June 2018 to begin laying the groundwork for a Space Force, then-Defense Secretary

Jim Mattis had publicly questioned the wisdom of adding a separate service for space. Mattis agreed, however, that the Pentagon needed a more effective way of defending its interests in outer space. Mattis' lack of enthusiasm for creating a sixth military service — after the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard — was among his many differences with Trump. He has since resigned.

The House has been supportive of creating a Space Force within the Air Force, along the lines of what Trump proposed on Tuesday. Senate support is less clear but seems likely to swing in Trump's favor. Rep.

Mac Thornberry of Texas, the senior Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, said Tuesday that Trump's approach is "an important step toward real reform of national security space."

Shanahan, a former longtime Boeing Co. executive who took over as acting defense secretary on Jan. 1, had spearheaded Pentagon planning for a Space Force in his previous role as deputy defense secretary. Shanahan has not shifted from the path that was set before Mattis resigned, and has stressed his interest in keeping the Space Force as economical as possible. "It's going to be small, as small as possible," Shanahan said last month, explaining his recommendation to Trump that a Space Force be part of the Air Force.

Some questioned whether having a Space Force would increase the odds of armed conflict in space.

"There are much better ways to protect satellites," said Laura Grego, a senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists. "Space security cannot be achieved unilaterally or solely through military means. It will require coordination and cooperation with other spacefaring na-

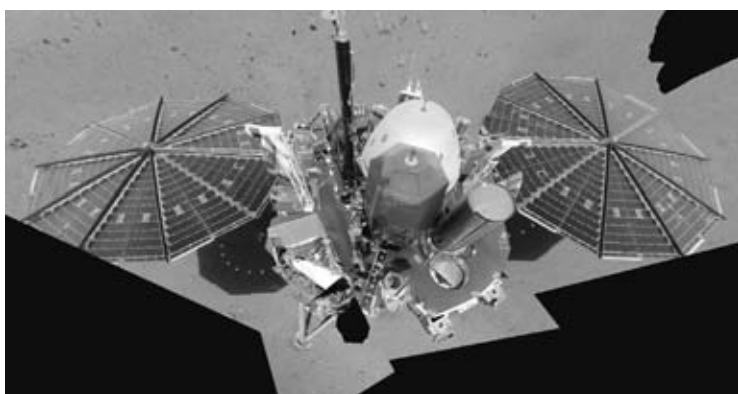
tions. That means diplomacy."

Under a legislative proposal being reviewed by the White House, the Space Force chief of staff would work within the Air Force and also be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the group of top uniformed military leaders who advise the president and defense secretary. A civilian undersecretary of the Air Force for space would be appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Cost estimates were not provided Tuesday. They are to be included in the 2020 budget proposal Trump is expected to send to Congress next month.

White House officials said seeing the Space Force become a separate military department remained a goal. But they said that, after hearing concerns from Congress, a decision was made to avoid going that route at the outset since it would have meant spending a lot of time building a bureaucracy and not focusing on the mission.

The directive requires the defense secretary to conduct periodic reviews to determine when it would make the most sense to propose a stand-alone Space Force department. □



This Dec. 6, 2018 image made available by NASA shows the InSight lander. The scene was assembled from 11 photos taken using its robotic arm.

Associated Press

And now for the weather on Mars, courtesy of new NASA lander

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — And now for the weather on Mars: NASA's newest lander is offering daily reports on the red planet's frigid winter.

Starting Tuesday, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory is posting the highs and lows online, along with wind speed and atmospheric pressure from the InSight lander.

On Sunday, InSight recorded a high of 2 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 17 Celsius) and a low of minus 138 degrees Fahrenheit

(minus 95 Celsius). Compare that with Sunday's coldest U.S. temperature: minus 27 degrees (minus 3 Celsius) in Taylor Park, Colorado.

Scientists need to know the local Mars weather to determine if InSight's seismometer is registering real marsquakes or simply wind or pressure changes.

InSight landed near the Mars equator in November. NASA's Curiosity rover also gives weather updates, while roaming around Mars about 340 miles (550 kilometers) away. □

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First-ever 'Jeopardy!' team contest draws top champions

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP) —

Glance around the "Jeopardy!" set during rehearsals for its first-ever team championship and it's easy to be intimidated by the assembled brain power.

There's Brad Rutter, whose overall "Jeopardy!" haul, \$4.3 million, is the most won on any game show. And Ken Jennings, a 74-game winner and top money-maker, with \$2.5 million, in non-tournament "Jeopardy!" competition. And Buzzy Cohen, the reigning Tournament of Champions winner.

They're among the six captains who will join their teams in competing for a top \$1 million prize in a series of 10 episodes that begin airing Wednesday and conclude March 5. The other three captains: Julia Collins, No. 2 in overall winnings on the show; Colby Burnett, a Teachers Tournament and Tournament of Champions victor, and Austin Rogers, No. 5 in games and money won.

"It's like the Mount Rushmore of 'Jeopardy!'" observed Jimmy McGuire, part of the traveling "clue crew" that poses video answers from distant spots.

The 18 contestants were chosen primarily on the ba-



This image released by Jeopardy Productions, Inc. shows Brad Rutter, Colby Burnett, Alan Lin, Seth Wilson, Larissa Kelly, Monica Thieu, Pam Mueller, Matt Jackson, Jennifer Giles and Ken Jennings, Ben Ingram, Roger Craig, David Madden, Julia Collins, host Alex Trebek, Austin Rogers, Leonard Cooper, Alex Jacob and Buzzy Cohen on the set of the game show "Jeopardy!"

Associated Press

sis of their previous success, with an edge going to fan favorites as determined by social media, said Harry Friedman, executive producer of the syndicated show hosted by Alex Trebek and featuring announcer Johnny Gilbert.

Can "Jeopardy!" soloists work together? "We're going to find out," Trebek said. The captains, who will also play, built their three-per-

son teams from among the remaining 12 contestants. The full teams won't play directly against each other, with one person from each team designated to compete in a game's first round, another to play double "Jeopardy!" and the third to play the final round.

The winning teammates will get equal shares of the top prize, about \$330,000 each, said Friedman. The second-

and third-place prizes to be split are \$300,000 and \$100,000.

Players are working hard for the money, in the strategy sessions held at the beginning of each game and, more importantly, in the cramming that Friedman metaphorically termed "test prep on steroids."

Exhibit A — as in type A — is Cohen, who created mental and physical training

drills to prepare for his previous "Jeopardy!" appearances and resumed them for the tournament with teammates Alex Jacob and Jennifer Giles.

"I would go the gym, hang from a bar and have my trainer quiz me to try to recreate the stress" of being in the thick of the game, Cohen said. This time around, he added NFL reaction-time drills — to sharpen his skills with the buzzer that gives players a chance to score — along with "deep secrets" he gleaned from Jacob.

"I do not care if I fail. But if I fail other people on something that I should know, that I should have memorized ... like a world capital or an Oscar year, and I'm letting someone else down, that's not cool," he said.

Collins said she enjoyed taking a cooperative approach to a game that's typically an individual experience, beyond splitting the workload.

"It is very solitary to be on the show in the normal format and compete alone, which is what you'd expect. But you go through the whole experience of the show by yourself, so it's nice to have your teammates who are sharing that experience with you," she said. □

Chaka Khan's 'Hello Happiness' is mini bundle of joy

By PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press

Chaka Khan, "Hello Happiness" (Diary/Island Records)

With just seven songs in 28 minutes, Chaka Khan's "Hello Happiness" is a little bundle of joy, emphasis on the little.

But you shouldn't feel short-changed.

Consider it instead as a corrective to all those overlong, overblown collections of incessant sonic doodles and listen up as the iconic singer makes her feelings and intentions clear from the start: "Music makes me say/Goodbye sadness/Hello happiness."

Khan's clarity of purpose



This cover image released by Diary Records/Island Records shows "Hello Happiness," the latest release by Chaka Khan.

Associated Press

comes on the back of a dramatic awakening after the 2016 death of Prince, a close collaborator, which helped her confront her own addiction to prescription drugs.

The title track is a good sampler for the rest of the record — deep grooves, dancefloor beats and Khan's excellent voice, which, even decades since her days with Chicago funksters Rufus and a dozen years after her last solo release, has not lost the ability to create its own flow while forming a tight connection to each song.

The production from Switch and Sarah Ruba Taylor applies just the right amount

of now sounds to classic disco and funk structures, with some space judiciously reserved for rapturous reggae on "Isn't That Enough" and a gliding acoustic guitar and tap-tap-tapping percussion on cozy closer "Ladylike."

Elsewhere, the scalding, exuberant "Too Hot" isn't shy to describe the kind of man who'll earn a swipe right, and "Like Sugar," a contortionist's dream, features Khan on timbales and is based on the Fatback Band's "(Are You Ready) Do the Bus Stop."

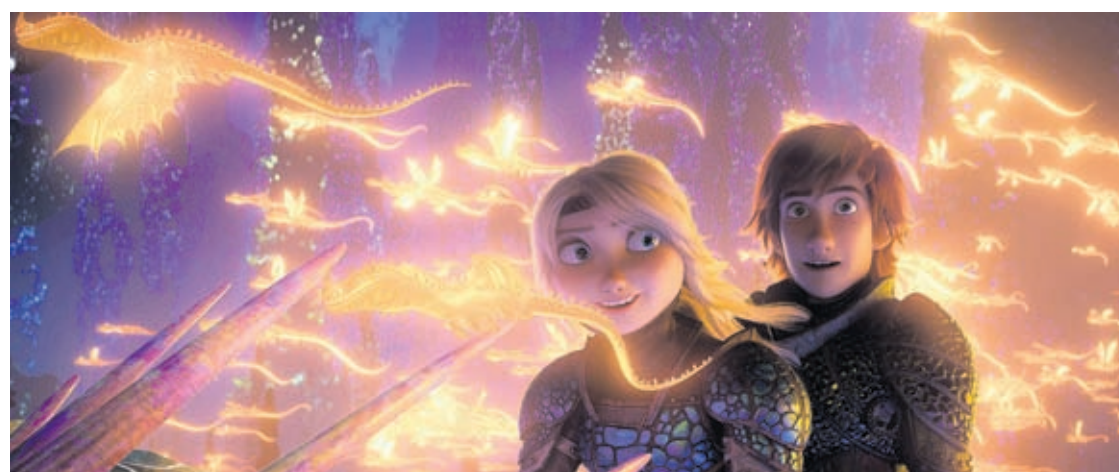
Chaka Khan has found some contentment and "Hello Happiness" is gratifying proof. □

A sweet swan song for 'How to Train Your Dragon'

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

Born in the 3-D land rush, "How to Train Your Dragon" has never quite shrugged off the bland corporate sheen attached to it from the start. But almost a decade since taking flight in 2010, these movies have made up for their lack of fire with enough sincerity and genuine sense of wonder to sustain a mild but moving trilogy.

"How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World" brings the franchise to a close with an affectionate chapter that continues the adventures of the Viking boy-turned-chief Hiccup (Jay Baruchel) and his faithful dragon Toothless, a sleek, black kind of dragon called a Night Fury (not to be confused with an evening-time presidential tweet storm). In "The Hidden World," the dragon utopia that Hiccup has built on the Island of Berk, where Vikings once feared and fought dragons, comes under threat from a dastardly dragon hunter named Gimmel the Grisly (F. Murray Abrahams) whose toothy grin resembles a moonlighting vampire with violently retrograde policies on dragon coexistence.



This image released by Universal Pictures shows characters Astrid, voiced by America Ferrera, left, and Hiccup, voiced by Jay Baruchel, in a scene from DreamWorks Animation's "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World."

With Berk under attack, Hiccup rallies the Vikings to uproot and flee to a mythical, undiscovered realm called the Hidden World where dragons could live safely away from human-kind. It feels like an overreaction. Fearsome as Gimmel is, he's a single and kind of goofy villain, and, plus, real estate values in hidden worlds are notoriously unpredictable.

Written and directed by series veteran Dean DeBlois, "The Hidden World" may not overwhelm in its necessity; it's a tale that lacks the stakes of the previous installment, which dealt significantly with Hiccup's parents — the discovery of one (Cate Blanchett) and the death of another (Gerard Butler). But the \$1 billion in box office taken in by the first two movies, combined, was enough to push the franchise forward and put "How to Train Your Dragon" back into action five years later (and following the sale of DreamWorks to Universal).

There are two compelling parts of "The Hidden World" that validate it. The first is the courting scene between Toothless and another white (and presumably female) Night Fury who turns up just as Gimmel does. They swoop and swoon through the sky, gliding in the glow of the Northern Lights like a dragon version of "La La Land." The second is the film's terrific coda, which leaps years forward and adds a wider, wistful and more grown-up dimension to what has always been, at its heart, a boy-and-his-dog story, just with wings.

"How To Train You Dragon" has done a lot of things right along the way. It brought in cinematographer extraordinaire Roger Deakins to add to the rich Nordic atmospherics. (Deakins remains credited as a visual consultant in "The Hidden World.") And the series deserves credit, too, for building a story — adapted from Cressida Cowell's books — around two unimpeded protagonists (Hiccup and Toothless) with prosthetic appendages.

Without much to draw on from the surrounding characters (voices include America Ferrera, Jonah Hill and T.J. Miller), "How To Train Your Dragon" has always been predicated on that central twosome and the laudable lesson that animals, even fire-breathing ones, aren't our enemies unless we make them so. "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World," a Universal Pictures release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for adventure action and some mild rude humor. Running time: 104 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. □

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FRI 5:15 | 7:50 | 10:25
SAT 2:40 | 5:15 | 7:50 | 10:25
SUN 2:40 | 5:15 | 7:50

VIP
MON-THU 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10
FRI 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10 | 11:45
SAT 1:25 | 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10 | 11:45
SUN 1:25 | 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10
[PG-13]

HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI-SAT 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
[PG-13]

COLD PURSUIT
LIAM NEESON | LAURA DERN
MON-THU & SUN 6:50 | 9:20 • FRI-SAT 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
[R]

LEON
CHRIS PRATT | ELIZABETH BANKS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:20 • SAT-SUN 1:40 | 4:00 | 6:20
SPANISH SAT-SUN 2:50
[PG]

WHAT MEN WANT
TARAJI P. HENSON | WENDI MCLENDON-COVEY
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 8:40 • FRI-SAT 8:40 | 11:10
VIP
MON-THU & SUN 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25
FRI 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SAT 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SUN 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25
[R]

MISS BALA
GINA RODRIGUEZ | ANTHONY MACKIE
MON-SUN 4:20 | 9:15
[PG-13]

the upside
BRYAN CRANSTON | KEVIN HART
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:35 • SAT-SUN 1:45 | 6:35
[PG-13]

BON BINI HOLLAND 2
JANDINO ASPORAAT | LILIANA DE VRIES
DUTCH
MON-THU 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30
FRI 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
SAT 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
SUN 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30
[PG-13]

THE KING
LOUIS ASHBORNE SERKIS | PATRICK STEWART
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Fashion world descends on London for fashion week shows

By **GREGORY KATZ**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — London is taking its turn in the style spotlight with the opening of London Fashion Week, an extravaganza that will feature up-and-coming young designers along with big names like Victoria Beckham, Vivienne Westwood and Burberry. More than 100 catwalk shows are scheduled along with countless crowded, fizzy parties and dozens of presentations.

BORA AKSU

The London-based Turkish designer used his catwalk show Friday to display a series of layered, asymmetrical dresses in quiet shades of white, cream and soft blue. Many of the outfits had an ethereal,



A model wears a creation by designer Bora Aksu at the Autumn/Winter 2019 fashion week runway show in London, Friday, Feb. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

otherworldly look, set off at times by pale, almost Arctic makeup. Aksu said the look of his show was inspired by Valentina Tereshkova, a Russian cosmonaut who was

the first woman to fly into space. He said he was seeking a "mystical feel" that paid tribute to both her village roots as well as her space travel. □

Chanel: Iconic couturier Karl Lagerfeld has died

By THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Chanel's iconic couturier, Karl Lagerfeld, whose accomplished designs as well as trademark white ponytail, high starched collars and dark enigmatic glasses dominated high fashion for the past 50 years, has died. He was around 85 years old.

Such was the enigma surrounding the German-born designer that even his age was a point of mystery for decades, with reports he had two birth certificates, one dated 1933 and the other 1938. In 2013, Lagerfeld told French magazine "Paris Match" he was born in 1935, but in 2019 his assistant still didn't know the truth — telling AP he liked "to scramble the tracks on his year of birth — that's part of the character."

Chanel confirmed that Lagerfeld died early Tuesday. Lagerfeld was of the most hardworking figures in the fashion world holding down the top design jobs at LVMH-owned luxury label Fendi from 1977, and Paris' family-owned power-house Chanel in 1983. Indeed, his indefatigable energy was notable: he lost around 90 pounds in his late 60s to fit into the latest slimline fashions.

Though he spent virtually his entire career at luxury labels catering to the very wealthy — including all of 20 years at Chloe — Lagerfeld's designs quickly trickled down to low-end retailers, giving him an almost unprecedented impact on the entire fashion industry. At Chanel, he served up youthful designs that were always of the moment and sent out almost infinite variations on the house's classic skirt suit, ratcheting up the hemlines or smothering it in golden chains, stings of pearls or pricey accessories. They were always delivered with wit.

"Each season, they tell me (the Chanel designs) look younger. One day we'll all turn up like babies," he once told The Associated Press.

His outspoken and often stinging remarks on things

as diverse as French politics and celebrity waistlines won him the nickname "Kaiser Karl" in the fashion media. Among the most

gaze riveted toward the future. Well into his 70s, he was quick to embrace new technology: He famously had a collection of hun-

launch the careers of supermodels including Claudia Schiffer, Ines de la Fressange and Stella Tennant. In a move that helped

to Paris with his parents and went to school in the City of Light. His fashion career got off to a precocious start when, in 1954, a coat he designed won a contest by the International Wool Secretariat. His rival, Yves Saint Laurent, won that year's contest in the dress category.

Lagerfeld apprenticed at Balmain and in 1959 was hired at another Paris-based house, Patou, where he spent four years as artistic director. After a series of freelance jobs with labels including Rome-based Fendi, Lagerfeld took over the reins at Chloe, known for its romantic Parisian style.

Lagerfeld also started his own label, Karl Lagerfeld, which though less commercially successful than his other ventures, was widely seen as a sort of sketchpad where the designer worked through his audacious ideas.

In 1982, he took over at over Chanel, which had been dormant since the death of its founder, Coco Chanel, more than a decade earlier.

"When I took on Chanel, it was a sleeping beauty — not even a beautiful one," he said in the 2007 documentary "Lagerfeld Confidential." "She snored."

For his debut collection for the house, Lagerfeld injected a dose of raciness, sending out a translucent navy chiffon number that prompted scandalized headlines.

He never ceased to shake up the storied house, sending out a logo-emblazoned bikini so small the top looked like pasties on a string and another collection that dispensed entirely with bottoms, with the models wearing little jackets over opaque tights instead.

Lagerfeld was open about his homosexuality — he once said he announced it to his parents at age 13 — but kept his private life under wraps. Following his widely known relationship with a French aristocrat who died of AIDS in 1989, Lagerfeld insisted he prized his solitude above all. □



In this Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2018 file photo, fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld poses after the presentation of Chanel Spring/Summer 2019 ready-to-wear fashion collection in Paris, Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2018.

Associated Press

acid comments included calling President Francois Hollande an "imbecile" who would be "disastrous" for France in Marie-Claire, and telling UK's The Sun that he didn't like the face of Pippa Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge's sister.

"She should only show her back," he advised. Lagerfeld was also heavily criticized for sending out a negative message to women when he told France's Metro newspaper that signer Adele was "a little too fat."

Despite this, he did have an under-reported soft side. He was known to be very kind to his staff at Chanel and was famous for according journalists generously long interviews after each fashion show. He also shared his unmarried life in his Parisian mansion with a Siamese cat called Choupette.

"She is spoilt, much more than a child could be," he told AP in 2013, revealing also that he would take her to the vet every 10 days overcautiously.

Lagerfeld had little use for nostalgia and kept his

dreds of iPods.

A photographer who shot ad campaigns for Chanel and his own eponymous label, Lagerfeld also collected art books and had a massive library and a bookstore as well as his own publishing house. He was also an impressive linguist switching between perfect French, English, Italian and his native German during interviews at post-catwalk celebrity media scrums.

Although he spent much of his life in the public eye, Lagerfeld remained a largely elusive figure. Even as he courted the spotlight, he made an apparently deliberate effort to hide what was going on behind his trademark dark shades.

"I am like a caricature of myself, and I like that," British Vogue quoted Lagerfeld as saying. "It is like a mask. And for me the Carnival of Venice lasts all year long."

After cutting his teeth at Paris-based label Chloe, Lagerfeld consolidated his reputation in the 1980s when he revived the flagging fortunes of the storied Paris haute couture label Chanel. There, he helped

make his a household name, Lagerfeld designed a capsule collection for Swedish fast-fashion company H&M in 2004 and released a CD of his favorite music shortly after.

A weight-loss book he published in 2005 — "The Karl Lagerfeld Diet" — consolidated his status as a pop culture icon. In the book, Lagerfeld, said that it was his desire to fit into the slim-cut suits by then-Dior Homme designer Hedi Slimane that had motivated his dramatic transformation.

The son of an industrialist who made a fortune in condensed milk and his violinist wife, Lagerfeld was born into an affluent family in Hamburg, Germany.

Lagerfeld had artistic ambitions early on. In interviews, he variously said he wanted to become a cartoonist, a portraitist, an illustrator or a musician.

"My mother tried to instruct me on the piano. One day, she slammed the piano cover closed on my fingers and said, 'draw, it makes less noise,' he was quoted as saying in the book "The World According to Karl."

At age 14, Lagerfeld came

K-pop and fancy sneakers: Kim Jong Un's cultural revolution

By ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) —

Dancers in hot pants. Factories pumping out Air Jordan lookalikes. TV dramas that are actually fun to watch.

North Korean pop culture, long dismissed by critics as a kitschy throwback to the dark days of Stalinism, is getting a major upgrade under leader Kim Jong Un. The changes are being seen in everything from television dramas and animation programs to the variety and packaging of consumer goods, which have improved significantly under Kim. Whether it's a defensive attempt to keep up with South Korea or an indication that Kim is willing to embrace aspects of Western consumer culture that his predecessors might have viewed as suspiciously bourgeois isn't clear.

"The most important thing for us is to produce a product that suits the people's tastes," Kim Kyong Hui of the Ryuwon Shoe Factory told The Associated Press recently in the facility's showroom, which is filled with dozens of kinds of shoes for running, volleyball, soccer — even table tennis. "The respected leader Kim Jong Un has instructed us to closely study shoes from all over the world and learn from their example," she added, pointing to a pair of flame-red high-top basketball shoes.

To be sure, North Korea remains one of the most insular countries in the world. Change comes cautiously and anyone who openly criticizes the government or leadership or is seen as a threat can expect severe repercussions. But there appears to be more of a willingness under Kim to experiment around some of the edges.

The most visible upgrades are on television and its normal menu of propaganda programs and documentaries in praise of the leaders. Viewers of the main state-run TV network — the only channel that can be seen anywhere in the country



In this Friday, Feb. 1, 2019, photo, a guide stands near a basketball shoe display in a product exhibition room at the Ryuwon Shoe Factory that specializes in sports footwear, in Pyongyang, North Korea.

— are now stopping their routines to watch the latest episodes of "The Wild Ginseng Gatherers of the Imjin War," a historical drama set in the late 16th century, when Korea was struggling against a Japanese invasion.

The anti-Japan, nationalistic theme is nothing new. A similar theme was used for Kim Jong Un's first big contribution to the television lineup, an animated series reviving a popular comic from his father's era called "The Boy General" that made its debut in 2015. The animation, set in the Koguryo period when Korea was fighting off Chinese incursions, was such a hit that people would stop whatever they were doing to watch it. A Boy General

game was created for mobile phones. New episodes are believed to be forthcoming.

What the TV drama, first aired last July, and the Boy General animation share that's new is their high production values.

The acting in the movie is grittier and more compelling, the plots more engaging and the sets and costumes are decidedly more elaborate than previous projects. Even the dialogue spoken in Japanese by the villains, played of course by North Korean actors, is generally accurate, though delivered with a heavy North Korean accent. The Boy General, meanwhile, makes skillful use of computer effects and is visually on par with some of the

best animation in the world. The improvements reflect awareness within Kim's regime that the North Korean public is increasingly familiar with foreign pop culture despite severe restrictions that make it impossible for most to travel abroad or freely experience foreign movies, music or books.

That familiarity is particularly true of the North Korean elite, who are accustomed to seeing brand name products from Dior to Sony on the shelves of upscale stores in Pyongyang, the capital. Cheap knockoffs from China are common in marketplaces around the country.

Watching South Korean movies or listening to South Korean music is illegal. But a lot makes its way over the border and, even for those who would never dream of taking that risk, the officially approved cultural fare isn't entirely void of foreign treats.

Bollywood films are popular in state-run cinemas — 2009's "Three Idiots" with Aamir Khan, for example, was recently shown in a cinema just across the street from Kim Il Sung Square. North Korea's educational channel regularly features long clips from foreign documentaries, and dog-eared Harry Potter books

are among the most popular items at the People's Grand Study House, North Korea's biggest library.

North Korea's "approach to the influx of foreign media has been to 'modernize' media production to provide an attractive and competitive product that caters to younger generations for whom older productions are no longer attractive," said Geoffrey See, the founder of the Choson Exchange, a Singapore-based non-profit that supports change in North Korea through exposure to knowledge and information in business, entrepreneurship and law.

"For consumer goods, it also ties into a state policy to encourage more domestic production and import substitution," he said.

Kim's first attempt to update the pop culture scene started almost as soon as he assumed power in late 2011 with the creation of the Moranbong Band, an ensemble of female vocalists and musicians who are the "soft face" of his regime.

Although the members all belong to the Korean People's Army, they are known for performing in miniskirts and wearing their hair fashionably short. They have released dozens of songs, all of which get lots of exposure through concert tours, DVDs and airtime on television.

They are beginning to look a bit passe, however.

In February last year, North Korea sent some of its top musicians, including a female quintet that performed in black shorts and red tops, south of the Demilitarized Zone to perform during South Korea's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. Two months later, Kim was in the audience as the South Korean girl group Red Velvet put on what is believed to be the first real K-pop show ever held in Pyongyang. The North Korean act that performed in South Korea was so well received that Kim sent them to Beijing last month for another goodwill tour. □



In this Friday, Feb. 1, 2019, photo, workers make sneakers at the Ryuwon Shoe Factory that specializes in sports footwear, in Pyongyang, North Korea.

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